

The Baptist Record

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These two girls, Brandi Franklin and Leandra Bishop, search for a scripture reference during a class on relationships at Gulfshore. The two are members of Temple Church, Myrtle. (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Ben Sustar, a student at Southwestern Seminary and a resident of Charlotte, N.C., was one of the teachers at Gulfshore Youth Conference. He told his class, "Before we can become a disciple, Jesus has to become the best friend we have." He said that when choosing a true friend, a person needs to think of the following things: "Be selective, pray about it, you take the first step, don't give up — some people don't open up as fast as others do, do something for them, do something with them, be a good listener, and say good things about them."

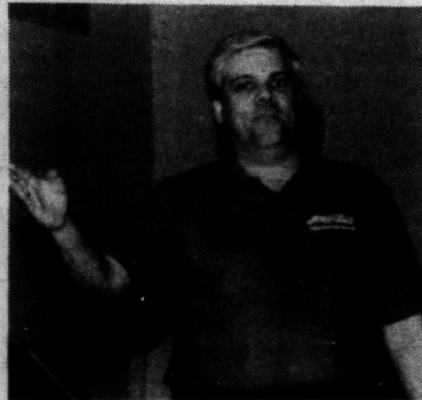
Russell tells teens, "There are three kinds of love"

By Tim Nicholas

John Russell of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, was guest preacher for one of the youth conferences at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. He told the teens that there are three kinds of love they will run into: "love if . . . ; love because of . . . ; and love period." He said that the first kind is answered with "I'll love you if you'll satisfy my desires." He said this type always ends when "one partner fails to meet the expectations of the other."

The second type is "I'll love you because you're pretty or a hunk or have money." This, he said, means they are "actually in love with status." The problem is "if they know your deepest darkest fears, they won't love you."

The third kind, love period, "can't wait to give." It says, according to Russell, "you can't do anything to turn my love off."



John Russell

These seven youth conferences at Gulfshore had several new features. Each had a missionary-in-residence. These included John and Nell Smith of Indonesia, Steve and Vidonia Smith of Argentina, Terry and Kathy Sharp of South Brazil, Dottie Williamson of Mississippi, and Danny and Wanda Henderson of Korea.

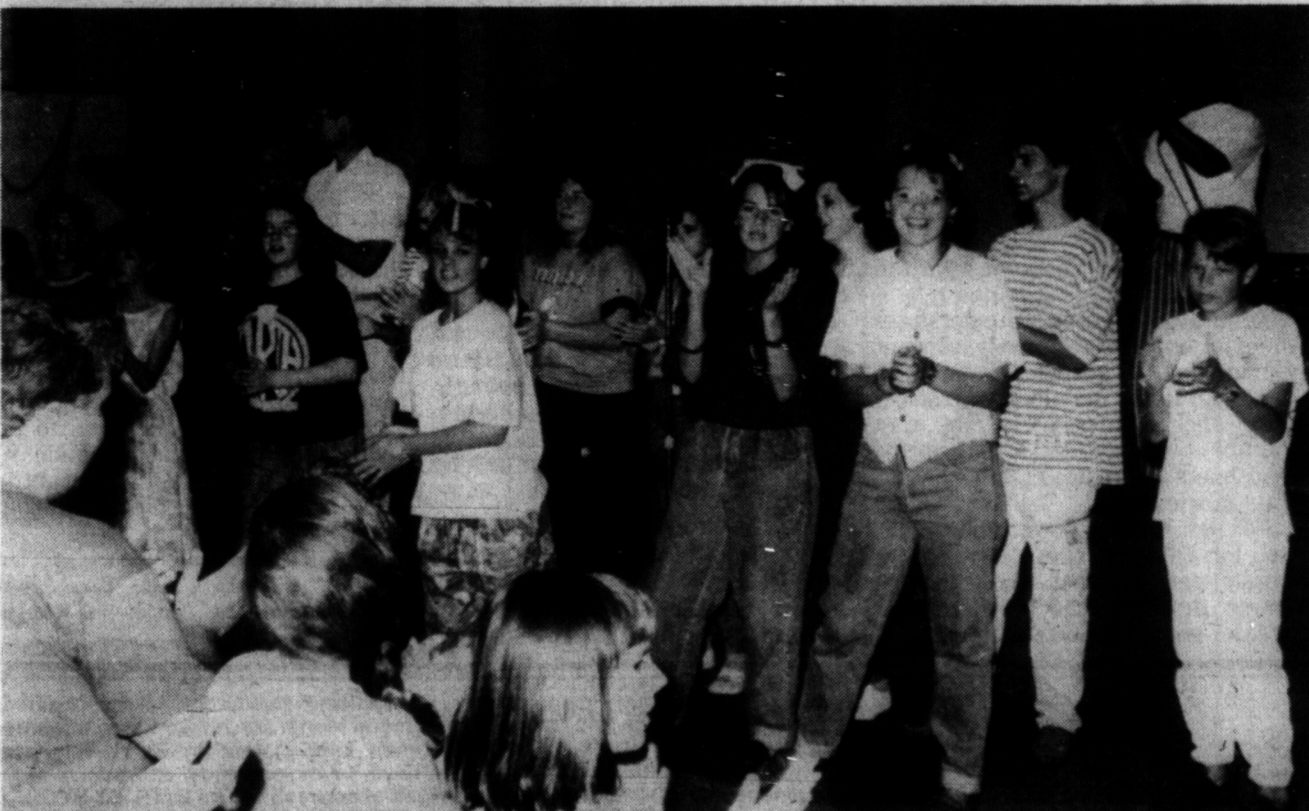
Also, the conferences all had the same program coordinator, Scottie Goldman, of Philadelphia, who just completed studies at Southwestern Seminary. His wife Rita handled business matters related to the program.

"I've been associated with the youth conferences for four years and this is by far the best summer we've had," said Goldman. "One of the key factors was in seeing the faculty and church sponsors spending time one on one

sharing with the youths." Another was the instituting of the missionary-in-residence program which lets the teens get to know missionaries personally.

Goldman said that during the closing session of one conference, where the topic was on dating and relationships, one of the youths asked to share her testimony. "The response was so overwhelming" said Goldman, "that John Russell felt there was no need for a sermon from him and there were more than 80 decisions registered during that one service."

Jan Cossitt, chairman of the MBCB youth committee, and consultant in WMU, reported that of the 2,825 participants at the seven youth conferences, there were 322 decisions reported. Of those 124 were professions of faith in Jesus Christ.



These young people had been gathered to the stage at Gulfshore by the "hitman" who made music leaders out of the quieter participants at the youth conferences. The real music leader for all seven youth conferences was John Yates who led music, sang, played trumpet, and talked with J. J., his ventriloquist dummy. Yates is seen here on stage clapping his hands.



During a break in classes at Gulfshore Youth Conference, four teens have a chat. From left they are Jennifer Odom and Dana Johnson, both of Calvary Church, West Point, and Jason Muston and Caleb Sparks, both of First Church, Eudora.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

A failed trust

Southern Baptists are not accustomed to barricades being placed in their own buildings to keep them from lobby areas or to armed guards who try to keep them from those same areas.

Both were in evidence last week, however, in relation to the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee during which Al Shackleford and Dan Martin were fired.

The barricades came down before the meeting began. The armed guards, identified by lapel tags as "ushers," were on hand before and throughout the meeting.

It was a closed meeting, in spite of the efforts of Mississippian Larry Otis to keep it open until a vote could be taken. The meeting was not held in the regular auditorium meeting place where there is ample gallery space but in a subcommittee meeting room where had been placed 77 chairs, the number of Executive Committee members, with the names of Executive Committee members on them.

Shackleford and Martin were director and news editor for Baptist Press, the news service for Southern Baptists established 44 years ago by the state paper editors. Shackleford also carried the title of vice-president for public relations of the Executive Committee.

Both men had been under extreme pressure, to the point of harassment, in the performance of their duties; and the eventual outcome had been evident for some time. Yet, to their everlasting credit, both refused to take the easy out and resign. Both forced the issue to the last moment; and, in doing so, they forced the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee to admit to a desire to control information received by Southern Baptists.

The officers of the Executive Committee could not fire the two, nor were they authorized to offer them the sort of deals that they did in order to obtain their resignations.

In the final analysis, the Executive Committee does not belong to the officers of the committee, and it does not belong even to the Executive Committee members themselves. It belongs to all Southern Baptists. By a quirk of circumstances, however, the two newsmen, in the service to all Southern Baptists, were in the employment of the Executive Committee.

The name, Baptist Press, comes from the two middle words of the Southern Baptist Press Association, the organization of Baptist state papers. But in the final analysis, also, Baptist Press also doesn't belong to the Executive Committee. It, too, belongs to all Southern Baptists. It was felt that the Executive Committee was the place where Baptist Press could be free of pressure and be able to provide for Southern Baptists a fair, unbiased, and objective news source.

The Executive Committee was holding Baptist Press in trust for Southern Baptists. The committee failed to carry out the trust that had

been placed in it to protect Baptist Press; and, indeed, it was the Executive Committee that took action against Baptist Press.

In so doing the Executive Committee took something that it didn't own and that it didn't understand and tried to make Baptist Press into something it wasn't supposed to be.

The determined stands of Shackleford and Martin brought that condition to the attention of the world. It became a major news story across the nation because anytime anyone seeks to manipulate the news, that action in itself becomes a news story.

When those who have been responsible for a fair, impartial, and unbiased news operation are fired, what is the message? It can be only those who did the firing want to control the news.

The Baptist Press Liaison Committee is a group of nine members of the Southern Baptist Press Association chaired by this editor. The purpose of this committee is to work with Baptist Press to help it to be better able to serve the needs of Southern Baptists through the state papers. Instead of helping to mold Baptist Press, however, over the past several years the committee has had to turn its attention toward trying to defend Baptist Press. During these years this committee has spent many hours in meetings separately and with the Public Relations Workgroup of the Executive Committee in seeking to find ways of easing the pressures on Baptist Press.

Four days before the convention in New Orleans there was a call to the chairman of the Public Relations Workgroup, who is also an officer of the Executive Committee; and there was an assurance that there were no threats pending against Baptist Press. Five days after the call, the officers of the Executive Committee delivered the message that Shackleford and Martin should resign or they would be fired.

Shackleford and Martin provided an objective and unbiased news service. They were fired because of it.

But the news goes on regardless, and the state papers are determined and prepared to continue to report it. Because of reservations concerning news being reported by agencies about those agencies, as president of the Southern Baptist Press Association eight years ago this editor proposed that the editors employ a system for being present at all major agency and institution meetings possible. Two years later Editor Lynn Clayton of Louisiana as president appointed the first "networking" committee and initiated a system whereby state papers are assigned by that committee to cover all of the major news events occurring among Southern Baptists and to share their stories with all of the papers. Missouri Editor Bob Terry heads the committee.

Also, at the conclusion of a news conference in Nashville last week, there was the announcement of a new service, chartered on the day of the news conference, to be called Associated Baptist Press. It is design-

ed to be operated by a free-standing board that will not need to bow to pressure from any source, conservative or moderate.

So the news will be covered.

In the future, however, may Southern Baptists forever be spared the spectacle of armed guards seeking to keep Southern Baptists from being in the public areas of their own building. The guards' presence was not effective, but it was very disquieting.

At one point two of the guards were sitting in the meeting closed to Southern Baptists.

There was no reason or excuse for the armed guards being in the building.

If there is to continue to be a Baptist Press, it needs to be separated from public relations. The purposes are different. Now is the time to effect such a separation. Executive Committee President Harold Bennett, the officers of the Executive Committee, and the Baptist Press Liaison Committee should work together to provide a new organizational structure that would separate the two.

And if Baptist Press is to stay within the Executive Committee framework, the Executive Committee must be committed to its trust to provide a free and unbiased news service.

Southern Baptists cannot function with anything less.

The meeting last week was traumatic. It is painful when such a clash of wills occurs. Some 200 people gathered in the lobby area outside the meeting room in support of Shackleford and Martin. They were there from before the Administrative and Convention Arrangements subcommittee meeting began at 8 a.m. until the Executive Committee meeting ended at 1:30 p.m.

It was a tragic moment in history. Let us seek the counsel of the Lord in order to avoid a repetition of it.

Baptist Beliefs . . .

Glorying in the gospel

By Herschel H. Hobbs

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ." — Romans 1:16.

Actually, Paul uses an understatement for emphasis. Not only is he not ashamed of the gospel; he glories in it. Pagan Rome may look with scorn upon such a message. Jews may stumble over it; Greeks may call it foolishness (moronic; 1 Cor. 1:23). But Paul glories in it.

For in it is God's power unto salvation for all who believe in it. Rome worshipped political and military power. But Paul had resource to a greater power — God's power. And it

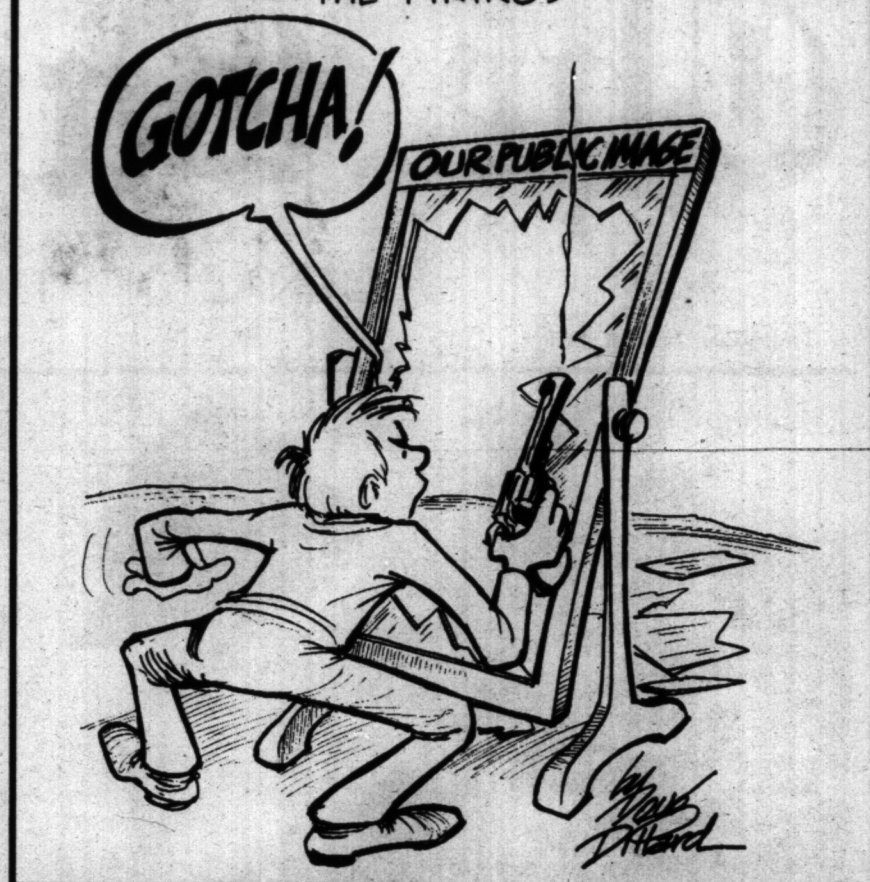
is for salvation, not destruction and tyranny.

Paul went to wicked Corinth with fear and trembling (1 Cor. 2:3). But he had seen the results of God's power in people's hearts there. He is certain that it will do the same in Rome. So he looks forward eagerly to preaching the gospel in Rome.

Paul's attitude should be ours. Do not be afraid to share the gospel. In it is the power of God. It works!

Herschel Hobbs is pastor emeritus of First Church, Oklahoma City.

THE FIRINGS



Guest opinion . . . The gigantic task

By Morris H. Chapman

Southern Baptists must not be deterred from the gigantic task of winning our world to Christ. Missions and evangelism, along with church growth, have always been at the heart of our faith in action. Bold Mission Thrust is a vital strategy for planting churches and for reaching the unsaved. I enthusiastically encourage every pastor and church leader to review the goals and methods of Bold Mission Thrust and to ask the question, "How can our church better participate in this historic challenge?"

Now is the time to enhance our cooperative spirit through substantial

participation in the Cooperative Program. We must be certain that we do not damage our world mission effort to present the claims of Christ to the five billion people around the globe.

In instances where churches currently give a minimal amount through the Cooperative Program, I urge that prayerful consideration be given to an increased participation. I strongly disagree with and discourage anyone who would call for withholding Cooperative Program funds or who would call for negative designations (selective designations) to be directed around the Cooperative Program.

I caution churches against choosing to bypass certain national agencies and seminaries and, likewise, caution state conventions against choosing to selectively designate funds on a national level. Such action could lead local churches to decide to support the national organizations to the exclusion of state organizations. I do not think this generation of Southern Baptists wants to engage in unraveling the method of funding which God has so greatly honored.

Southern Baptists are now poised to enter the 90s with hearts tuned to expanding our witness for Christ around the world. Now is the time for reduced rhetoric, for Christ-like attitudes, and for gracious communication. Now is the time to focus on spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now is the time to boost our world-wide missions enterprise. Now is the time to encourage cooperative participation. We need to pray that God will grant us wisdom and courage for the facing of this hour.

Morris Chapman is pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, and president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Bill Causey

First year takes Causey to every corner of state

By Anne W. McWilliams

A map of Mississippi and a map of the world — joined by a cross, pinpointed with dots of light to show mission stations, and underscored with a phrase from the Great Commission. This scene is on the planning board for the rear wall of the Baptist Building lobby.

"This display," said Bill Causey, "will show people as they walk into our lobby what our organization is all about — helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

A year ago this month, Causey moved into office as the "elect"; a few weeks later, August 16, he became executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, succeeding Earl Kelly.

Such physical changes proposed during this year in the Baptist Building will reflect something of his plans and purposes, affirmed Causey. For instance, another change is a prayer room which has been installed on first floor. He said he envisions a prayer ministry for Baptist Building employees, patterned on a church's incessant prayer ministry, with people from all over the state

calling in prayer requests.

This year has brought about several changes in Causey's personal customs. However, he has been able to translate pastoral experiences into those of his new job. "I can identify with pastors and understand their needs because I was a pastor so long myself," he said.

According to Causey, his earliest church memory is of being in Story Hour as a small child "in one of those little chairs," at First Church, Greenville, "listening to some of the ladies read Bible stories." At 17, he said yes to God's call for him to preach. One summer, he went as a student missionary to Alaska. For 25 years of his lifetime of church attendance he stood every Sunday in the pulpit of Parkway Church, Jackson, because all that time he was Parkway's pastor. He's still a member there — "so far." This year, he was still in church every Sunday, but nearly every week preached in a different church.

"I have tried to catch as many of Mississippi Baptists in a year as I could," he said. He has preached in all

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Missionaries wait for rebel permission to leave Liberia

By Donald D. Martin

VOINJAMA, Liberia (BP) — Two Southern Baptist missionaries in Voinjama, Liberia, said they will evacuate to Guinea as soon as they receive permission from rebel leaders whose troops captured the city July 14.

Missionary Chris Wilkinson of Gainesville, Fla., said via relayed radio messages July 19 that he and his wife, Gwen, of Ardmore, Tenn., were safe and planned to leave Voinjama in the next few days, but were awaiting permission to pass through rebel roadblocks.

Voinjama, a Liberian provincial capital about 140 miles north of the country's capital, Monrovia, was captured by rebel troops of the National Patriotic Front less than 24 hours after peace talks in Sierra Leone broke down July 13.

Wilkinson asked the assistant rebel

commander July 18 for permission to cross into Guinea, a few miles away, with Mrs. Wilkinson and a small group of missionaries from other mission organizations. The assistant commander said he would not let them go until he cleared it with his commander, who was expected to return to Voinjama in a few days.

Wilkinson stressed the missionaries were not under any form of house arrest.

Missionaries Kenneth Nicholson of Magdalena, N.M., and Joyce Nicholson of Seaside, Calif., the other Southern Baptist couple who worked in Voinjama, left July 11 for the United States.

When the Wilkinsons receive permission to depart, the only Southern Baptist missionaries remaining in

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The Second Front Page

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Behind closed doors, Exec Committee fires two

Meeting behind closed doors for three hours, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee last week fired Al Shackleford, the Executive Committee's vice president for public relations and director of Baptist Press, and Dan Martin, the news director for Baptist Press.

The meeting began about 10:30 a.m. and lasted until about 1:30 p.m. Armed guards protected the entrances to the meeting room. The Executive Committee didn't meet in its regular auditorium meeting place with a gallery section for visitors but in smaller subcommittee meeting room.

Before the Executive Committee met, the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee had met in the same room from 8 a.m. until about 10:30 p.m.

Both meetings concerned the future with the Executive Committee of Shackleford and Martin. Baptist Press relates to the Executive Committee through the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee. Charles Sullivan, pastor in Tennessee, is the chairman. Sam Pace, director of missions in Oklahoma, is chairman of the Executive Committee.

Following the meeting, a press conference was called in the auditorium, where a statement by Pace was read. Pace, however, pushed his way through the crowd and left the building without comment at the end of the meeting. The statement was read by Ernest Mosley, vice president of the Executive Committee. The reading of the statement was the only item of the press conference. Following the first press conference

another one was held for Shackleford and Martin.

The Executive Committee statement pointed out that the meeting was held in private because of the sensitive nature of the discussion and to protect both the Executive Committee and the people who were being dismissed. It noted that the dismissal was immediate but that six months salary would be afforded both of the personalities.

Both have a month of vacation available in addition to the six months.

Mosley was interrupted by laughter from the 200 or so in the gallery and the news people gathered from all over the nation when he read as a part of the statement, "We believe in the fundamental need for Southern Baptists to know how we are conducting ourselves and their business."

During the 5½ hours of meeting some 200 people milled outside of the meeting room. At 8 a.m. there was an effort to keep the crowd out of the lobby area on the third floor of the Southern Baptist Convention Building, where the meeting was being held, but the people refused to leave.

Each of the guards wore a badge that identified him as an usher, and all declined to reveal who had hired them. One, a sergeant, refused to answer questions about being armed; but another admitted that each was armed on orders of the Nashville Metro Police Department.

Two of the guards spent most of the time just outside the meeting room doors, and two of them briefly sat in on the closed session of the Executive



Shackleford

Martin

Committee to listen to the proceedings.

Five television cameras were in evidence, some filming through the glass of the closed doors. Reporters were present from as widely scattered cities as Charlotte, N.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; and Fort Worth, Texas; and many cities in between. Some 25 or more state paper editors and staff members were present. Others who were gathered were denominational executives and other interested parties. At one point during the day the group began to sing "Amazing Grace," "It Is Well with My Soul," and "The Church's One Foundation."

The attorney counseling Shackleford and Martin, Frank Ingraham of Nashville, a former Executive Committee member, repeatedly had asked for time during the Executive Committee meeting for each to state his own case. Instead the officers of the Executive Committee scheduled five minutes for each in each of the two meetings. Neither took his five minutes.

Instead, each made a brief statement which said, "As journalists who

(Continued on page 4)



State paper editors gather around Sgt. Summers of the Nashville police force to inquire of his "usher" status. Left to right are Don McGregor, Baptist Record, Mississippi; Greg Warner, Florida; J. B. Fowler, New Mexico; John Hopkins,

Kansas-Nebraska; and Jack Brymer, Florida, in front of Summers and Ferrell Foster, Illinois, to the side. Warner and Foster are associate editors. Photo by Toby Druin — Baptist Standard, Texas.

Behind closed doors . . .

(Continued from page 3)
are committed to openness, we cannot in good conscience participate in your closed executive session. As employees, we submit to you our written statements to do with as you please."

Though the Executive Committee's attorney was present, Ingraham was not permitted in the subcommittee meeting as Shackleford and Martin entered separately, made their brief statements, left their printed statements, and departed. Neither was asked to appear before the Executive Committee following their appearances before the subcommittee.

Read during the Executive Committee's brief news conference, the committee's statement noted "the need to permit its members to debate the Southern Baptist Convention's business freely, without fear that lawsuits would be filed against them for expressing their opinions and without fear that their comments would needlessly damage the professional reputations of the two Christian journalists." There was laughter as the statement pointed out, "The Executive Committee affirms the value of a Southern Baptist press which honors the virtues of objectivity, credibility, balance, and Christian deportment in journalistic pursuits." Mosley asked for patience as he read the statement.

There was no statement regarding the vote count immediately following the meeting. An official Executive Committee statement the next day noted that the vote had been 45 to 15 with one abstention.

In his statement, Shackleford said, "I believe that Baptists — individually and collectively — can and will make the proper decisions when they have a fair, unbiased, objective presentation of the issues involved."

"I have long held to the historic Baptist adage, 'Tell the truth and trust the people.' For this adage to operate properly, Baptist leaders — whether in a church or a denominational body — must fairly and objectively present all information to the members or messengers who will make the decision."

"A part of my trust of the Baptist system is that Baptists — the person in the pew — can be trusted with the truth — even when that truth is unpleasant."

He continued, "The real issue you face today is not the control of Baptist Press nor its director, but the control of the right and responsibility of Baptist church members to know what is going on in their denomination."

"Throughout our history, Baptists have adhered to the principle of 'freedom of conscience.' We have trusted our Baptist church members with the right to discern truth and, on the basis of that discernment, the responsibility to make proper decisions."

"Your vote today must not be based on your perception of the journalistic abilities of Dan Martin and me, but on our commitment to trust our fellow Baptists and on your willingness to allow their right to discern truth as presented to them through an objective, free news service."

In his statement, Martin said.

"Ten years ago next month I came to Baptist Press. I came with a sense of commitment, of excitement, and gratitude. I came committed to living out my calling as a Christian journalist; committed to providing the very best Baptist Press possible. I was committed to serving the true constituency of BP, the person in the pew, who prays for, works for, and gives to the work of the Southern Baptist Convention. Providing them the most free, the most accurate, and most balanced news possible has been my aim and my goal."

He continued, "I have attempted to follow three basic rules: First, tell the truth and trust the people. Second, report the news without fear or favor. Third, do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

"You may change the nature of Baptist Press. However, be aware that if you do, it may no longer be a news service of integrity. You have the power to change it, but be sure the change will be noted by the press and the people. You will be responsible for the result."

He concluded, "The responsibility of the freedom of Baptist Press shifts to you today."

After the committee adjourned, members declined to discuss the issue and say why the staff members were fired.

Shackleford told reporters, "We were not given cause when we were told to resign (June 19) and have not been given cause since then." Last year, Baptist Press carried 1,298 articles; and the staff was challenged on 10 or less of them, he said.

"I think we were fired because they want their own minister of information," Martin said. "They're going to want somebody who's going to be a 'spin doctor,' who's going to put the spin on stories the way they want them."

"That is why I think we were dismissed, because the last thing revolutionaries who succeeded in taking over the palace want is a free press and an objective observer."

Ingraham said the firing resulted in three losses. "There was a loss of journalistic integrity, a loss of credibility of leadership of Southern Baptists, and a loss of voluntary cooperation among our churches," he noted.

Responding to reporters' questions, Ingraham said legal action against the Executive Committee is not pending on behalf of his clients: "I have never been engaged to bring any legal action or consider any legal action. I was asked to be an agent of reconciliation. Any talk you hear about fear of lawsuit . . . is inconsistent with the facts that I have continually related."

Shackleford and Martin said they do not know what jobs they will hold next. "We felt we needed to get beyond this meeting today," Martin said. "Now it's past, and we'll start looking at options."

Cost of the called meeting, which about 60 members attended, is not certain, Mosley said. Previous estimates began at \$50,000.

Employment of the armed off-duty Nashville police officers apparently was arranged by the committee's legal counsel, James P. Guenther of Nashville, and the committee's six officers, Mosley said.

The full committee's meeting violated Robert's Rules of Order because it was closed before the members voted to close it, Ingraham said. Before the subcommittee was closed and after the motion had been made to close it, Larry Otis, Executive Committee member from Tupelo, sought to point out the problems of having a closed meeting.

This article is a compilation of efforts by Don McGregor and Marv Knox, editor of the Western Recorder of Kentucky.



Attorney and former Executive Committee member Frank Ingraham, center, answers questions of reporters gathered outside the room where the SBC Executive Committee is meeting. Immediately behind Ingraham is Ingram Foster of Prentiss, Miss., another former Executive Committee member who was on the scene to protest the action of the committee. — Photo by Greg Warner

Bennett says he plans to continue Baptist Press

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE — Southern Baptist Executive Committee President Harold C. Bennett said he plans to continue publication of Baptist Press.

In a telephone interview with the Baptist and Reflector July 18, Bennett acknowledged "nothing is in place," but noted a process will be established to "publish Baptist Press with the staff we have left. We will keep it going," he said.

A Baptist Press release, dated July 18, was issued the day following termination of Al Shackleford and Dan Martin as director and editor, respectively, of the convention's news service. The BP release contained statements issued by the Executive Committee, Martin, and Shackleford.

Bennett affirmed that the three remaining BP staffers — Doris Elliott, Polly House, and Maria Sykes — are not in danger of losing their jobs. "I met with the ladies this morning (July 18) and told them they are absolutely secure, with my personal request that they stay where they are and get the job done."

Bennett said Executive Vice President Ernest Mosley would work with the remaining BP staff at the present time.

Mosley affirmed that he "is working with the staff to keep BP flowing." He said he and Bennett have met with Jim Newton of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board who serves as chief of the Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press.

"Our anticipation is the bureau chiefs will continue to send stories through Baptist Press," Mosley said.

(Newton also is serving as a bureau liaison with Baptist state paper editors.)

Mosley said that "lacking a professional journalist at the present time, the staff will rely more heavily on stories provided by the bureaus and other news writers."

Mosley added that he assumes "an interim BP director will be employed as soon as the process can be completed."

Charles Sullivan, chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee of the Executive Committee, told the Baptist and Reflector Bennett will have the responsibility of finding people to fill the positions vacated by the termination of Martin and Shackleford and the recent resignation of Marv Knox, former feature editor, who left to become editor of the Western Recorder in Kentucky.

Bennett said he did not know if he would have any recommendations for the Executive Committee members when they meet in September. "I will have gone through the process and will try to fill the positions," he said.

Regarding the firing of Martin and Shackleford, Bennett said, "I felt Al and Dan did a good job. I'm disappointed the Executive Committee felt they had to take action as they did."

Bennett declined to comment further about conversations with Executive Committee officers regarding Martin and Shackleford or the closed meeting of the committee on July 17.

Lonnie Wilkey is associate editor of Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee.

Earl Kelly's mother dies

Mrs. Ernest Earl Kelly, of Ecu, mother of Earl Kelly, retired executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, died July 18, at age 97. Funeral services were held at Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc County, at 10 a.m. on July 20. The pastor, James Lewis, officiated, assisted by Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The former Lillian Thomason, she was born in Union County, Mississippi, on Sept. 8, 1892. She had lived all her life within a 50-mile radius, and had been a member of the Cherry Creek Church for more than 70 years. Survivors in addition to her son,

Earl, are four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Kelly died in Jackson.

Earl Kelly and his wife, Marjorie, have been in the Philippines on a mission assignment.

Last week they were in Bangladesh, Thailand, and Indonesia, but because of the necessity of returning by way of Manila, were unable to reach Mississippi in time for the funeral. All planes in and out of the Philippines were being used to fly relief supplies following an earthquake. The Kellys were scheduled to return to Mississippi this week.



Two armed guards stand outside the door where the Southern Baptist Executive Committee is meeting to determine the fate of Baptist Press staff members Al Shackleford and Dan Martin. — Photo by Greg Warner, Florida Baptist Witness



Sam Pace of Oklahoma, seated left, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, checks with Bill Harrell of Georgia before the beginning of the Executive Committee meeting last week in Nashville. Charles Sullivan of Tennessee, seated beside Pace, is chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee. Standing at right is Harold Bennett, president of the Executive Committee. — Photo by Greg Warner



State SS shows "largest increase"

Keith Wilkinson, director, shows the J. N. Barnett award to the staff of the Sunday School Department. The award was presented to Wilkinson during a Sunday School leadership conference at Glorieta. The J. N. Barnett award is presented to state conventions showing the largest numerical increase in Sunday School enrollment in the 1988-89 church year. Mississippi had the largest increase in states with from 100,000-399,000 enrolled in Sunday School.

"We had a great year," stated Wilkinson. "Any time we show increase in Sunday School enrollment, it is encouraging. More of our associations showed increases than decreases."

Sunday School Department staff looking on are Linda Reeves, Randy Tompkins, Carolyn Anderson, Keith Williams, Larry Salter, and Ginger Wood.

Other states in this category are Oklahoma, Virginia, Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Louisiana, and California.

PrayerLine available in Virginia, Canada

RICHMOND, Va. — Toll-free use of the Foreign Mission Board's telephone service, PrayerLine, was extended to Virginian and Canadian Southern Baptists July 11.

The three-year-old telephone service, 1-800-ALL-SEEK, relates prayer

requests, news and information from the mission field. At the end of the one-and-a-half minute messages, the caller is also given specific items to pray for, said Minette Drumwright, director of the board's International Prayer Strategy Office.

SBPA endorses concept of new press service

By Toby Druin

NASHVILLE, TENN., — The Southern Baptist Press Association endorsed the "concept" of a new press service to ensure a free flow of Baptist news and information here following the firing of the director and news editor of Baptist Press by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The SBPA, the organization of state Baptist papers in the SBC, endorsed establishment of "Associated Baptist Press" in a special meeting July 17 shortly after the termination of BP Director Alvin C. Shackleford and News Editor Dan B. Martin had been announced.

Shackleford, 58, who has also been vice president for public relations of the Executive Committee, and Martin, 51, were fired by a 3-1 vote of the Executive Committee during a closed-door session lasting almost three hours.

Following a press conference after the announcement of their terminations, Nashville attorney Jeffrey Mobley, who said he was legal counsel for the proposed news service, announced it would be housed in Nashville, would begin limited service by mid-August and full service would be available by mid-September.

Mobley said the news service is being established by "interested and concerned state Baptist newspaper editors, pastors and laypersons," but declined to identify any of them at the present time.

The new service has been necessitated, Mobley said, by "the

continued harassment of Baptist Press," public statements by members of the Executive Committee "which suggest their intention to install a publicity arm to report information which is favorable to a single political agenda" and the "unjustified and grievous dismissal" of Shackleford and Martin, "two of our convention's most trusted and competent journalists."

"We believe this leads to no other conclusions than Baptist Press will cease to be a fair and balanced news service reporting the business and events of the Southern Baptist Convention," Mobley said.

"Associated Baptist Press is aligned with no political group — nor will it ever be," he said. "Its goal will be to provide a source of information which will be guided by the highest tenet of professional journalism and the standard of Christian ethics."

"ABP will be neither the servant nor savior of any group among Southern Baptists. A guiding principle for ABP will be to tell Southern Baptists the facts and to trust them with those facts. ABP will not serve as a 'press agent' of any political group or groups among Southern Baptists."

The service will be offered to state papers and other media on a subscription basis such as is currently done by Religious News Service and Evangelical Press Association.

Bob Terry, editor of *Word and Way*, the Missouri state Baptist paper, asked the Southern Baptist Press Association to "endorse the concept"

of the new press service and a free flow of information.

Terry said it had been hoped that the new service would be in operation by July 18, but that it would be operating soon, possibly by adding a person on contract in a state paper office.

The SBPA approved a motion to endorse the concept after questions about how it might affect future cooperation with Baptist Press. Terry explained it would "have no impact" on Baptist Press, and SBPA President J. B. Fowler, editor of the *Baptist New Mexican*, said the new service would "just supplement" what might be offered in the future through Baptist Press. No successors to Shackleford and Martin or plans for the continued operation of Baptist Press have been announced by the Executive Committee.

The "concept" of the new service was approved by a wide majority of the SBPA members present, although there was one opposed and others who did not vote.

In other action, the press association approved gifts of \$500 each to Shackleford and Martin in recognition of their service to the association and Southern Baptists.

Also approved was a commitment to continue to channel news stories through SBCNet, the personal computer network through which the state papers have received and sent news stories to Baptist Press.

Toby Druin is associate editor, *Baptist Standard of Texas*.

FMB loses in \$1.56 million lawsuit

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A Richmond Circuit Court jury has awarded \$1.56 million to four children of a former missionary couple in a lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The jury's verdict July 13 followed a five-day trial.

The lawsuit, filed by the children's mother, Diana Sue Wade, contended board officials learned her husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., was sexually abusing their oldest daughter but did not disclose it to the mother so she could halt the molestation. The lawsuit contended Wade continued to abuse the daughter as well as a second daughter, who was adopted, and that he began molesting a third daughter. The couple also has a son. The sexual abuse began in 1979 in Botswana, Africa, when the oldest daughter was about 10 years old.

Defense attorney Lewis T. Booker of Richmond argued that board officials who handled the family's case acted reasonably under the circumstances. The first official to learn about the abuse confronted the father, who agreed to tell his wife and undergo counseling with his family, according to testimony in the case. The missionary subsequently failed to act on the promise. The official then ordered the missionary to return to the United States with his family for counseling.

Mrs. Wade, 40, of Anchorage, Alaska, had sought \$141 million when she filed suit in April 1988 in Virginia, where the board is located.

The jury awarded \$850,000 to the

adopted daughter, \$350,000 to each of the other two daughters, and \$10,000 to the son, for a total of \$1.56 million.

An Aug. 20 hearing is scheduled in the circuit court on motions by the Foreign Mission Board to dismiss the verdict. One key contention is that missionaries do not have written contracts stipulating specific expectations of the board.

If the court denies the motions, the Foreign Mission Board will have 30

days to file a notice of appeal with the Virginia Supreme Court and three months to file its formal petition.

Mrs. Wade, a missionary with the board from 1976 until her resignation in February 1986, filed suit in behalf of her four children, who now range in age from 17 to 22. Virginia law permits Mrs. Wade to file another suit on her own behalf within a year of the start of the children's trial.

Art Toalston writes for FMB.

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Ervin Brown, director of missions, Northwest Association, reports that 39 people, from 18 churches, assisted the Garden Hills Church, Champaign, Ill.; June 1-8. Men worked on the church building; the women did a survey, knocking on over 2,500 doors, talking with 912 people, finding 78 prospects for the church. Others sewed blankets for the city mission and a nursing home, while two women re-worked the church library. This was the association's 12th bold mission project.

The seven preachers in the group also shared in several weekend revivals, with a good response. In years past the Nor-

thwest group has been to Billings, Mont., twice; Rock Springs, Wyo.; Farmington, N.M.; Flanders, N.J.; Seneca Lake, Ohio; Bambi Lake, Mich.; Emerado, N.D.; Martinsville, Ind.; Columbus, Ohio; and Spruce Creek, Penn.

The Carriage Hills Church, Charles Bagwell, pastor, recently had a group of men to go to Trenton, Ohio, and the Longview Heights Church, Steve Delony, pastor, will take a group to the Garden Hills Church in July. Above, Northwest Bold Mission team boards charter bus for Champaign. Ervin Brown, DOM, is second from left.

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld. The withholding of names will be at the discretion of the editor.

At the state level

Editor:

It should be clear to all Southern Baptists that fundamentalist control of our convention will not be stopped at the national level at any time in the foreseeable future. If it is to be stopped at all, it must be accomplished at the state convention level. Even this must be done quickly, because most of our pastors within a few years will have been trained in fundamentalist seminaries.

If we act soon, I believe most of our state conventions or general associations could be led to vote in annual session to select their own state's representatives on all Southern Baptist committees, with the warning to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention that all Cooperative Program funds of that state will be withheld from the Southern Baptist Convention unless he accepts and appoints those committee members which the state convention named.

If the convention president refuses to accept that state's nominees, then the state can withdraw membership from the Southern Baptist Convention and begin a new convention, and invite all interested churches throughout the convention area to join the new convention, and invite all interested missionaries to come under the umbrella of the new convention.

This, of course, will involve some painful experiences; but I believe it is the only way to preserve the integrity of our convictions and to preserve the sacred principles that have made Southern Baptists so great a people.

If we make every move in a spirit of prayer, and free of animosity, I firmly believe victory will be ours and the Lord's.

The Southern Baptist Convention has no monies of its own. It is totally dependent upon state conventions for its financial support.

Ryburn T. Stancil
Brookhaven

Weary of commentary

Editor:

I am weary of all the sad commentary we continue to see and hear, lamenting and hurt integrity and such concern by these so called committed concerning Brother Roland Lopez (Conv. Committee on Nominations).

If all these wounded committed folks would spend a fraction of time searching for the real truth of the matter as they did at the microphones trying to call attention to themselves and flagrantly lambasting this Christian brother, they would have discovered just how ridiculous they were.

Brother Lopez's church is located in the Rio Grande Valley, an all Spanish language church with very few if any members speaking any English at all.

BEFORE he became the pastor of this church they received the annual church letter information form from the association. No one knew what it was for or how to fill it out or even read it.

So the associational reporting process and the church letter was never completed and returned to the association.

Roland Lopez's church does fully contribute to the C.P. Unified Budget; his percentage of gifts is as great as and equal to most SBC churches and they have even started another similar language mission.

Their baptism record is greater than most all of these wounded critics. We are grateful for and thankful to Roland Lopez for his service on this SBC Committee and his church's contribution to the life of all Southern Baptists and especially this (Spanish) language group.

If all these folks who are so concerned about missions as they loudly claim, it would sure spare a lot of unnecessary rhetoric to check for the truth occasionally, which would be a new high for some.

Most folks who really seek the truth are set free!

I just pray Roland Lopez and his church will continue to be a contributing Southern Baptist Church and ignore these vicious attacks and continue starting new missions with language groups who, by the way, we are seeking to reach and exemplify as true Southern Baptist's called to Bold Mission Thrust.

Bill Franks, pastor
New Salem Church
Columbus

Number one priority

Editor:

The Jericho missions festival at Ridgecrest in the first week of July, from which I recently returned, opened with a stirring and challenging "parade of flags." Each flag represented a state, a nation or a people where Southern Baptists have mission work; each flag was borne by a foreign or a home missionary. Then three-score or more somber, plain, black flags were brought forward, representing those countries where there is no access or restricted access for organized Christian mission effort. At the conclusion of this ceremony Dr. Bill O'Brien of the Foreign Mission Board stated, "This is what Southern Baptists are about."

At a subsequent "town hall" session at Jericho, at which the SBC agency heads took the platform, the question was raised from the floor as to why, at the convention in New Orleans, such a small portion of the 38,000 messengers were present for the presentations of the Home Mission and Foreign Mission boards, and why a quorum could not be mustered for the Thursday business session. The answer that was given and to which was given general assent was that a large number of messengers came with only one purpose and priority in mind; and when that was taken care of on Tuesday, further interest waned.

Southern Baptists must set their priorities right — our number one priority is found in the Great Commission, not in argumentation and political machinations.

S. A. Moorehead
Oxford

39 Mississippians lend hand at Garden Hills

By Ferrell Foster

Reprinted from the Illinois Baptist.

CHAMPAIGN — Men were scattered across the roof, and women were scattered around the community. They were from Northwest Baptist Association in Mississippi, and they were here last week helping Illinois Baptists reach people for Christ.

Thirty-nine from the two-county association just south of Memphis helped Garden Hills Church with construction of a new building and helped East Central Baptist Association survey the community. The team also led weekend revivals in three churches.

This is the 12th year Northwest Association has sent volunteers to build and survey and lead revivals in places where Southern Baptist work is not as established as it is in Mississippi. But this year's effort also was different.

The trip to Champaign is a result of the partnership begun last year between Illinois and Mississippi Baptists.

"I like this because it's more organized," said Ervin Brown, director of missions for Northwest. The partnership helps a church that "has a need" get in touch with people who want to help meet such a need, Brown said.

The Northwest group is one of four Mississippi teams that will help Garden Hills Church erect its new 7,600-square-foot building. A group from Oklahoma and one from Alabama also are helping.

"They're going like gang-busters," Garden Hills member Jeff Knight

said of the Mississippi volunteers.

"It's some of the hardest work we've ever tackled, but the most rewarding," said Oscar Geeslin of Independence, Miss., about the work the team does each year. "It's a good feeling to go somewhere to help. But I get helped more."

Geeslin said one reward is getting reports of people accepting Christ in places where the men and women have worked in the past.

Wanda Grisham, of Southaven, Miss., said the people she met while surveying neighborhoods in Champaign were "very friendly and very open. They were kind of curious about what we're doing, . . . about the new building."

The new building already has attracted local attention. A reporter with the local newspaper saw the building and the result was a story and photos in the paper, said pastor Harold Roberts.

Thick wooden beams reach from the edge of the new fan-shaped building to the peak, which, when finished, will be above the platform area of an auditorium seating 374 people.

The three churches that held weekend revivals led by the Mississippi Baptists were Calvary, Monticello; Farmer City First; and Tolono, First.

The Mississippians took vacations and paid \$75 each for the chance to come and work in Illinois, Brown said.

Foster is associate editor, Illinois Baptist.

Devotional

Encourage one another

By David L. Sellers

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: . . . exhorting one another (Hebrews 10:24-25).

A few years ago I went on a skiing trip to New Mexico with a group of friends. I remember the patience and encouragement that one of my friends had in teaching me to ski.



Sellers

It is doubtful that anyone else on this planet ever came down any ski slope in more ways than I did, or landed in more positions, or did more creative things in the air before landing, or saw more varieties of cloud formations after landing. I was having a miserable time and was ready to quit.

In showing me how to ski, my friend repeated the same basics time and time again. Even though I was cold, irritable, impatient, and under the snow more than I was on it, she kept offering words of reassurance. Never once did she lose her cool, laugh at me, yell, scream, threaten, or swear. She didn't even call me "dummy," but I was beginning to wonder if I were "dumb" to attempt this new sport.

And not only that she didn't even charge me for those hours on the baby slope when she could have been enjoying the day with all our other friends who know how to ski. That day I learned a lesson in the value of encouragement. If I had not learned to ski that day, I probably would not have skied the rest of the week. I would have gone back to the condo and warmed my feet and stayed there. Because of my friend's encouragement, I did learn to ski and enjoyed it immensely.

While discouragement happened to me that day on that mountain slope, the truth is that discouragement is happening to many people every day. They are harassed by demands and deadlines, bruised by worry, adversity, and failure. They are shattered by disillusionment, defeated by sin, and live somewhere between discouragement and panic. Even Christians are not immune! All of us need encouragement. We need somebody to believe in us, to reassure and reinforce us, to help us pick up the pieces and go on.

The word "exhorting" as used in Hebrew 10:25 is the same Greek root used for the word "comforter" in John 14:26 and 16:7. The actual term is "parakaleo" meaning "to call alongside." Just as the Holy Spirit is called alongside to help us, so it is with us when you and I encourage each other. When we encourage others, we come as close to the work of the Holy Spirit as anything we can do in God's family.

When Christians begin to realize the value of mutual encouragement, there is no limit to what we can do in helping others. Just as I was encouraged in learning to snow ski, we can encourage others to accomplish the task that God has given to them. The beautiful part about encouragement is that anybody can do it. Not all Christians can preach, teach, or sing. But all can be encouragers to the ones with whom we come in contact each day. It might just change someone's life!

David L. Sellers is pastor, First Church, Collinsville.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Virgie Davis retires

First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, gave Virgie Davis a string of pearls, as well as a reception, when she retired at the end of last month. Yes, that's right. I did say Presbyterian. In her early years — she became a Christian at age 9 — Virgie dreamed of being a missionary to China. "Instead I became a missionary to the Presbyterians." She laughed when she told me that the other day.

She had worked at Jackson's First Presbyterian since 1976, as secretary to the senior minister — six years with James M. Baird and eight with his predecessor, Don Patterson, and also in recent years had been secretary to the church's staff administrator. Her daughter, Paula Prisock, has been employed as her successor in that position with the 2,800 member church.

Virgie is a Baptist, a member of First Baptist Church, Jackson, who sang in its choir for 26 years. She said that a good relationship exists between the Baptists and Presbyterians, and that sometimes the two churches exchange speakers for men's luncheons.

She has been married to two Baptist preachers. Her first husband, Lee Goodson, died in a wreck at age 34, when Virgie was 32. Her second husband, my good friend, W. P. Davis, died last year. At one time or another, she and all the members of her family have worked for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, under Chester Quarles, Douglas Hudgins, or Earl Kelly.

While a senior in high school in her hometown, Ellisville, Virgie Burnham first met Lee Goodson. A Jones Junior College freshman, he was sitting in the choir of First Church, Ellisville, when he saw her in the audience and winked at her. That night, at Training Union, they got together.

In 1942, Lee joined the Air Corps; for three years, the two courted by mail. "I always knew I wanted to marry a preacher, so when he said he was going to be one, I knew he was the one for me," she remembers. They married June 3, 1945, at First Church, Ellisville, and went to Mississippi College together. Then, while he studied at New Orleans Seminary, she worked at various office jobs, and had two babies. Their first year in seminary, Paula was born. During their last year there, Norma was born.

The Goodson girls were 8 and 5½ when their father was killed in a wreck at Corinth, Miss., on Aug. 2, 1957. Only three months before, he had resigned the pastorate of First

Church, Olive Branch, and the family had moved to Memphis, where he had accepted the pastorate of Oakville Church. Lee's friend, Earl Kelly, then pastor at First Church, Holly Springs, spoke at the funeral.

While at Olive Branch, Virgie had sung in the choir and directed the Training Union, in addition to her duties as pastor's wife and teaching three subjects (French, speech, and 11th and 12th grade English) in high school. Before then, she had begun at age 18 to teach children in Sunday School. Later, she would teach young adults.

Not so long after the accident, she began work at the Baptist Building as part-time secretary to William P. Davis, director of the Department of Work with National Baptists, who helped her to get a job at Unifirst.

When Dr. Davis' wife died, Virgie called to offer sympathy, and they wound up talking quite a long time, I understand. Afterward, at Ridgecrest, N.C., he told one young minister, "I know someone who would be a good wife for you. If the age difference between her and me were less, I would not give her name to you!"

Despite the 22 years' age difference, though, the two got married in the chapel of First Church, Jackson, March 16, 1961. I was present for the noon ceremony which Douglas Hudgins performed, assisted by Chester Quarles. (Dr. Davis had confided to Virgie that he and his first wife had prayed for her and her girls, and that Mrs. Davis had said to him, "After I'm gone, I want you to marry Virgie and take care of those girls!") Always he had wanted daughters. Now he had two of them, plus his son, Bill.

Virgie remembers, "I prayed we would have at least 12 years together, until my girls got grown. We had 28 years together, before his death."

Not only did Virgie have a good singing voice. So did both daughters. Beginning when the girls were six and eight, the three of them often sang together in churches across the state, and in Southern Baptist and National Baptist meetings.

Paula, who married Steve Prisock, worked for several years on the staff of the Baptist Record, while Joe Odle was editor. Then, as Virgie had been Dr. Davis' first secretary when he began work in the Baptist Building, his daughter, Norma, who had become Mrs. Eddie Brewer, was the last one to work for him before he retired.

Suddenly, six years ago, Virgie, who had already experienced the tragic



Virgie Davis

loss of a young husband, received a wound that has been said to be the deepest grief of all — the loss of a child. The lovely, long-haired Norma died, only 13 days after the birth of her third child, a girl.

In succession, this was the fourth generation in Virgie's family in which a young parent had died and left small children. Her paternal grandfather had died young, leaving four little girls and the boy who became Virgie's father. Virgie's mother died when Virgie was 4½, leaving four children, the youngest three weeks old. Lee Goodson, Virgie's husband, died, leaving the two little girls. Norma died at age 32, leaving two little boys, age 5½ and 4, besides her baby girl. (Strangely, Virgie and Lee had been married 12 years, when Lee died. Norma and Eddie had been married 12 years when Norma died.) Norma's children are now ages 6, 9, and 12. Eddie married Pam, who told Virgie, "I feel like the Lord called me to take care of these children." Paula's boy and girl are ages 15 and 12.

As a sort of assuagement of her grief, the warmhearted, charming Virgie has become a "foster mother" to several young women who needed her substitute mothering. Now, in retirement, she expects to have more time for all of her family.

"I have worked all my life," she said, "since I took my first job at age 16. I haven't stopped working, except for having babies, and a couple of periods of illness." For four years she taught at Bailey Junior High in Jackson, and then was substitute English teacher there for a long time.

Now she said she is ready to rest and do some things she always wanted to do.

In whatever she does, she knows she will find assurance, as always, in the words, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Thursday, July 26, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Liberia . . .

(Continued on page 3)

Liberia will be Ed Laughridge, of Rock Hill, S.C., and Fran Laughridge, of Great Falls, S.C. They work at a Baptist mission station in Mano River, a small mining town about 80 miles northwest of Monrovia near the Sierra Leone border.

Mrs. Laughridge said via radio messages July 19 that she had not seen any fighting in Mano River, but most roads into the town were blocked by government troops. The town has no electricity, and food and fuel are becoming scarce. The Laughridges stay in contact each day with missionary Steve Springer in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, via a radio powered by a generator.

The rest of the 60 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Liberia are temporarily in the United States or in countries bordering Liberia.

The rebels, led by Charles Taylor, a former aide to Liberian President Samuel Doe, have demanded that Doe resign and stand trial for corruption, nepotism and human rights abuses. Most international observers believe Doe's government could fall any day.

Human rights groups have accused both sides of killing hundreds of civilians in the seven-month war, which has been fought mostly along tribal lines.

Lack of food for refugees is the re-

maining missionaries' greatest concern, Mrs. Laughridge reported July 19. Stores of rice and medical supplies at the mission station were depleted after they aided several waves of refugees moving through Mano River to Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Laughridge said they only had enough fuel to run their generator two hours a day for about five more days. If more supplies are not found, they also will have to leave in the next few weeks.

Other mission and relief organizations report similar problems. Press reports said food shortages in the Monrovia area, as well as other parts of Liberia, are becoming critical.

Nuns at St. Theresa's convent, a refugee center in Monrovia, told reporters that they could only provide one small bowl of rice each day to all but the youngest children, who receive an additional small amount of cornmeal.

Some 23 refugee camps set up in and around Monrovia now house more than 40,000 people.

Water in many areas also is becoming scarce because of power shortages. Most of Monrovia's water supply comes from deep wells and is brought to the surface by electric pumps.

Donald D. Martin writes for FMB.

First year takes Causey to every corner of state

(Continued on page 3)

sections of the state, more than once. Also he has taken on many other speaking engagements, including associational meetings, pastors' conferences, and the WMU convention. "I want to go wherever I can be of help." Since the number of revivals he customarily preaches has soared this year, he's had many 7 a.m.-10 p.m. work days. His reason: "I have done this because my heart is in winning the lost."

As pastor, he regularly set aside three hours, mornings, 7 to 10, for Bible study and prayer. This year? Bible study and prayer, mornings still. "But I have not been able to allot that many hours per day to it."

Throughout his pastorates, he scheduled time for his family. This year, he still reserved time for his wife, Charlotte, and his three children, who are grown and live away from home; son, Bill, a Jackson businessman; daughter Carol, Jackson, married to Keith Turner; and daughter, Carley, who teaches art at Judson College in Alabama.

Time for his favorite game, golf, this year, was non-existent. Also time for another of his hobbies, writing, eluded him. (One of his minors at Mississippi College was English.) His sermons have been published in years past in a pastors' annual, and his articles in Baptist Sunday School Board publications.

Question: Do you see the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board offering new services that will more completely meet the needs of all Mississippi Baptists?

Causey's answer: "We have to adapt to changing needs of today, and tailor our services to meet the real needs. We need to put more money into Christian education; to meet the needs of our senior citizens; and to respond more effectively to family

problems, such as kids on drugs and teen pregnancies. We need to design our programs and services to meet the needs of people where they are. There is so much more variety in churches now that the same program does not do for all . . . I want to work with laymen and pastors in giving the best training and materials our consultants can provide."

His biggest victory this year? As to a "specific, measurable one," he said, "William Carey getting past their problems." As to a "spiritual one, maybe this is not my personal victory, but it is one very important to me, that Mississippi Baptists have stayed together more harmoniously than the Baptists in some states." Increase in budget giving has been another of the year's victories for him.

His biggest disappointment of the year? "How few churches actually turn to denominational headquarters for suggestions for pastors and other kinds of help we could give."

Question: Are Mississippi Baptists immune to the SBC controversy?

Causey's answer: "Not immune. But Mississippi Baptists are not easily stampeded. I am confident we can continue to stay together as a family and to major on the main things — evangelism and missions."

Question: Are you apprehensive or enthusiastic about the future?

Answer: "I feel challenged."

In 1978, when he was newly elected president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, he stated, "Someone said that Jackson, Mississippi, is the buckle of the Bible Belt. I believe that Mississippi should lead the way in Bold Mission Thrust." Now 12 years later, he is still encouraging Mississippi Baptists along that line: "We must keep on finding better ways to do missions. I hope we will keep our eyes on the goal and not on our differences and our personal opinions."

97 journeymen assigned overseas

RICHMOND, Va. — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board named 97 people to attend a July 5-20 orientation and then work overseas as journeymen through the International Service Corps program. Three have Mississippi connections.

The journeymen will work alongside missionaries for two years after completing orientation at the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Eight of the group were selected for assignment with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Bap-

tist agency that assists nations where missionaries do not work.

Mississippians:

Melanie Buntyn: Most recently employed in advertising production with Daily Mississippian, University of Mississippi, Oxford. Current address 1400 Highway 43 N., Brandon, MS 39042. Education: University of Mississippi, Oxford, B.A. Church: Mount Pisgah. Hometown: Brandon. Assigned as an English teacher in Eastern Europe.

Melinda Mathews: Most recently employed as a pharmacy intern at North Mississippi Baptist Memorial

Hospital, Oxford. Current address: 3966 Secluded Circle, Lilburn, Ga. 30247. Education: University of Mississippi, Oxford, B.S. Church: First, Oxford. Hometown: Lebanon, Tenn. Assigned as a pharmacist in South Korea.

Joanie Vasko: Most recently employed as a waitress at Wings and Whiskers, Tuscaloosa, Ala. Current address: Apt. 11, 235 37th E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404. Education: University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, B.S. Church: Circlewood, Tuscaloosa. Hometown: Newhebron. Assigned as a program assistant in Japan.

Just for the Record



Macedonia Church in Meridian held a noteburning ceremony for its new fellowship hall and educational building, May 27. Leon Young, director of missions, Lauderdale Association, was one of the speakers.

In September, 1984, the church borrowed \$80,000 and by April, 1990, the entire debt was paid. Construction of the 9,200 square foot fellowship hall on the first floor, and educational building on the second floor, began in September, 1984, and was completed February 10, 1987.

Danny Moss, pastor, says he credits the work of former interim pastor, Gordon Sansing, in leading the church to repay about \$30,000 of this loan, within a year and a half before he, Moss, came.

Pictured, left to right, are Harold Akin, Red Allen, J. M. Johnson, Benton Espey, deacons; Moss, John Watson (holding note), Frank Davidson, Donald Dean, C. B. Smith, and Jack Killen, deacons. Hidden behind others in picture is Ken Smith, deacon.

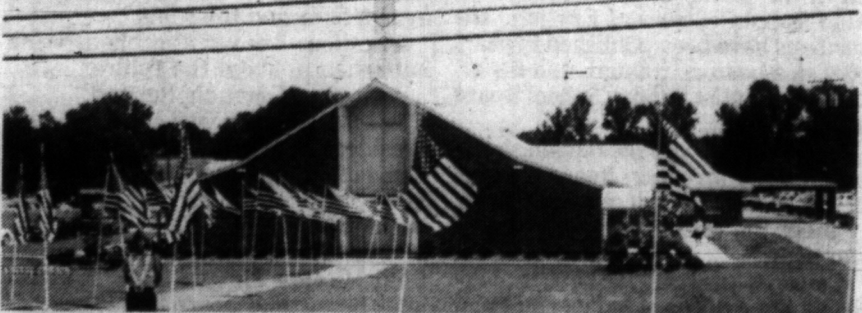


Kathy Thibodeaux, silver medalist at the second USA International Ballet Competition, gave her testimony to a group of young hospital volunteers (candystrippers) at a Health Careers Retreat sponsored by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. The candystrippers came from throughout the state to attend the June 15, 16 retreat where they learned of health career opportunities and educational requirements for various health careers. They talked with health professionals and saw first hand what their work involves. In addition to discussing health careers, the teenagers were entertained by Kathy Thibodeaux, founder and director of Ballet Magnificat.

opportunities and educational requirements for various health careers. They talked with health professionals and saw first hand what their work involves. In addition to discussing health careers, the teenagers were entertained by Kathy Thibodeaux, founder and director of Ballet Magnificat.



Holly Bluff Church, Yazoo City, held its GA recognition service June 30. The theme was "What a Wonderful World." Ten girls received awards for completing their mission adventures. Pictured, left to right, front row, are Becky Baker, Crystal Coghlan, Georgia Goodman, Jamie Hudson; second row, Heather Brooks, Tonia Westbrook, Melissa Langley, Amanda Baker, and Cynthia Westbrook; not pictured is Kristi Perry. GA leaders are Patsy Guess and Mary Dorris.



Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, celebrated Independence Day with a flag display and presentation of colors by the Brookhaven Color Guard under command of Lieutenant Colonel John Richardson. The pastor, Bendon Ginn, preached a sermon entitled, "Satanism and the American Flag."

Cleary men build home for family in Kentucky

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. — Fifteen members of Cleary Church in Florence recently participated in Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach program constructing a home for a family in Whitley County, Ky.

Mountain Outreach was formed in 1981 by two Cumberland College students who saw the need for improving the housing and environmental conditions of the mountain people of southeast Kentucky and northeast Tennessee.

The families are charged for the

costs of the materials in small monthly payments which may be spread over a 20-year period.

This summer nearly 300 volunteers from 13 churches in eight states will build six houses.

Members of Cleary Church who participated in Mountain Outreach this summer were Jimmy Abernathy, Paul Carter, Tom Hemphill, John Kahl, Scott Kahl, Tony Kahl, Robert Kelly, Charles Knight, Duane Polk, Kirley Smith, John Thornton, Kevin Vaughn, Bob Whitley, Eric Willing, and Junior Willing.

25th annual singles conference sets evangelism as its theme

NASHVILLE — Kicking off a year-long emphasis on evangelism, the 25th anniversary of Single Adult Labor Day Conferences will be observed Aug. 31-Sept. 3 in four locations across the nation.

With a theme of "Single Life with a Plus," sponsors of the Labor Day conferences will attempt to train 7,000 single adults in evangelism during the four-day meeting, according to Tim Cleary, single adult consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Family Ministry Department.

Sponsored by the senior/single

adult section of the Family Ministry Department, Labor Day conferences will be held at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Centers and in St. Louis, Mo., and Los Angeles, Calif.

Registration forms and additional information may be obtained by writing or calling the Family Ministry Department at MSN 140, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234; (615) 251-2277.

Pastor's son dies

Timothy Wayne Herndon, 29, of Tupelo, died July 11, at North Mississippi Medical Center of an aneurysm on the brain. He was the son of Joe Herndon, pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Services were held at McGrath-Raspberry Chapel in Tupelo, with burial in Lee Memorial Gardens. Tim was a member of West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo. He had worked at Action Industries in Verona for over seven years.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Barney Herndon, and son, Timothy Chad, of Tupelo; his parents, Joe and Annette Herndon of Baldwin; a twin brother, Greg, of Troy; an older brother, Steve, of Birmingham, Ala.; and maternal grandmother, Earnie Mae Lindsey of Randolph.

Holly, Corinth, to observe 110th year

Holly Church, Corinth, will observe its 110th anniversary on Aug. 5. Sunday School will be held at 10 a.m. Worship services will be at 11 a.m. with Philip Cooper, pastor, preaching. There will be no night services on Sunday. Gospel music will be presented by Redeemed at 2 p.m.

Services will be held at 7 p.m., Aug. 6-8. Guest speakers will be Gary Watkins, pastor, First Church, Collierville, Tenn., Aug. 6; Dan Emerson, pastor, First Church, Counce, Tenn., Aug. 7; and Chester Wayne Harrison, pastor, Butler's Chapel Church, Chewalla, Tenn., Aug. 8.

Correction

In the article on page 4 of the July 19 Baptist Record, "Mississippi College will Host a Ministers' School," Larry K. Salter was listed as consultant to the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. That was incorrect. Salter is consultant, Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

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YOUTH DIRECTORS — Make reservations for your group at "All Night Skate" July 27 during Youth Night in Jackson. Lakeland Skating Center, (601) 932-5323.

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Corinth dedicates steeple

Corinth Church, Route 2, Carthage, on June 17 dedicated a new steeple and new lights in the sanctuary. The steeple was dedicated as a memorial to Charles W. Foster, longtime member and deacon of the church, who died on July 18, 1989.

A plaque that noted the memorial was placed in the vestibule of the church and was presented by Danny McGivney, deacon, to Caroline M. Foster, wife of the late Mr. Foster.

Delivering words of tribute for the memorial service were Ted LeCren, deacon; Warren Tate, co-worker of Foster at The Carthage Company; James W. Henderson, Foster's nephew; and Butch Brooks, Foster's son-in-law.

Special music was provided by the Corinth Quartet; Iris H. LeCren, soloist; Faith M. Henry, organist; and one of Foster's daughters, Donna F. White, pianist.

Cathy F. Roberts, another of Foster's daughters, acknowledged all the friends and family who contributed to the purchase and erection of the memorial steeple.

Paul Sanders, Corinth, pastor, led the congregation in the service and in the act of dedication.

Marriage festival to take place in New Orleans

Mississippi Baptists are among the sponsors of the Fall Festival of Marriage taking place at New Orleans Seminary Sept. 14-16.

The Friday night through Sunday afternoon program is designed as a marriage enrichment program for married couples.

Cost per couple is \$65; lodging and meals are extra. There are discounts for groups of 10 couples (\$15 per couple), for ministerial or missionary couples (\$10 per couple), and for those who register prior to Aug. 1 (\$5 per couple).

Theme of the weekend is "Marriage on the Run." Doug Watterson of First Church, Knoxville, will be guest speaker.

To register write: Fall Festival of Marriage, Box 24001, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, TN 37203. Make checks payable to the BSSB.

Mississippians on the planning committee for the weekend are J. Clark Hensley, family ministries consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Ron Mumbower, Jackson; Leroy Hatcher, Lucedale; Terry Minton, McComb; Larue Stephens, Columbia; and Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg.

For program details, contact Hensley at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Thursday, July 26, 1990

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the news

New national alumni officers for New Orleans Seminary elected during a recent luncheon at the seminary are O. Wyndell Jones, secretary, executive director-treasurer of Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship; R. Alan Day, president, pastor of First Church, Edmond, Okla.; Donald Glenn Bouldin, president-elect, pastor of Brailake Church, Decatur, Ga.; and James Randall O'Brien, treasurer, pastor of Calvary Church, Little Rock, Ark.

Charles McCarter has been named professor of art and holder of the Gillespie Chair of art at William Carey College. He will also serve as curator of the Gillespie Collection of Mississippi art which is housed in the Gillespie Gallery on the Gulf Coast campus of William Carey College. McCarter served as department head and professor, Visual Performing Arts, Longwood College, Farmville, Va. While in Farmville, he also served as facilitator for American Council of Education and curator of the Thomas Sully Gallery.

Janet Williams has been appointed as assistant professor of nursing at William Carey College. Williams will teach nursing at the Gulfport Campus. She has master of science and nursing degree from the University of Alabama-Birmingham and master of business administration from University of South Alabama. She has served a number of health care institutions in the South Alabama/South Mississippi area, including service as adjunct professor at William Carey College on the Coast.

Horace Ross has resigned as bivocational pastor of New County Line Church in Neshoba County. He resigned in order to seek God's leadership in a full-time pastorate, and is available for pulpit supply or interim pastor. He can be reached at 856-6771 (Home) or 856-6505 (FBC Ridgeland).

Youth Night Friday July 27



Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, (Lincoln Association), has licensed Jim Byrd to the gospel ministry. Byrd, student at Southwest Community College in Summit, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Byrd of Brookhaven. He plans to go into some phase of youth ministry, and is available for pulpit supply, phone 601-734-6117. He is shown, center, with Gum Grove pastor, Sammy J. McDonald III, right, and Brady Davis, church clerk, left. The special event included a vote of the church and then deacons' prayer at the church altar.

Just for the Record

Terry Road Church, Jackson, will observe the Lord's Supper, in the 11 a.m. service, July 29.

A musical program will be presented at 7 p.m. by members of the church and visiting singers. Henry Bennett is pastor. James Netherland is music director.

Revival dates

Leaf River Church, Pineville (Smith), beginning July 29; regular services, Sun. with dinner at church; night services at 7:30; Clyde Little, Bay Springs, visiting preacher; W. P. Miley, pastor.

First Church, Stonewall: July 29-Aug. 2; Perry Neal, Montgomery, Ala., evangelist; Mrs. Jeanie Thomas, Stonewall, music leader; Albert McMullen, pastor; services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Chunky Church, Chunky: July 29-Aug. 3; services Sun. at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Hugh Poole, Meridian, director of pastoral care, Rush Medical Center, evangelist; Jerry Peagler, Calvary Church, Vicksburg, music leader; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Murphy Creek Church, Louisville: July 29-Aug. 2; John Merck, Lucedale, evangelist; Rick Smith, Louisville, music leader; Terrell Stringer, pastor; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Central Grove Church, Wren (Monroe): July 29-Aug. 3; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Charles Rodgers, pastor, East Philadelphia Church; music directed by Sherry Gregory, music director, Auburn Church, Tupelo; Dennis Smithey, pastor.

Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, Lincoln County: July 29-Aug. 3; Sun. at 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. with regular Sunday School and Discipleship Training; Mon.-Fri., at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; dinner to be served Sunday in new fellowship hall building; lunch also to be served each day following the morning services; revival theme, "One Heart and a New Spirit"; Keith Thrash, pastor, Russell Church, Meridian, evangelist; Randy Walker, minister of music at New Zion Church, Monticello, music leader; Annette Wilson and Roy Dixon, accompanists; Sammy J. McDonald, pastor.

New Life (Greene): July 22-26; Richard Miley, Hattiesburg, pastor of Richburg Church, evangelist; Jerry Rawls, pastor; services at 7 p.m.

Dry Creek (Simpson): July 29-Aug. 3; services at 7:30 p.m.; Charles Burnham, pastor, to be evangelist.

Holly Springs Church (Marion): July 29-Aug. 3; Sunday services, 11 a.m., dinner, and afternoon services; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Rickey Johnston, evangelist; Mack Davis and Otis Broome, music; Charles E. Williams, pastor.

Antioch Church (Greene): July 29-Aug. 3; Sunday, homecoming, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds at noon, and 2 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; I. C. Snow, evangelist; Charlie Steelman, music; Michael Meriwether, pastor.

Homecomings

Ephesus Church (Scott): July 29; homecoming; regular services, with Sunday School at 10 and worship at 11 a.m.; lunch at the church at 12; special service in the afternoon; Kenneth Jones, pastor.

Broadmoor Church, Gulfport: homecoming; July 29; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; worship service at 11 a.m.; covered dish lunch; afternoon special music by the Ernie Chaffin family and others, special acknowledgements, singing, and a time of praise and fellowship.

Springfield Church, Natchez: homecoming; July 29; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; former pastor, Glen Mullins, speaker at the 11 a.m. service; dinner on the grounds; no evening service; Michael McCarty Townsend, pastor.

Pleasant Hill Church (Lincoln): Aug. 5; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner in fellowship hall; no night service; Clarence Young, Sulphur, La., guest speaker; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

Main Street Church, Mendenhall (Simpson): July 29-Aug. 3; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 12 noon, 7:30 p.m.; Billy Ingram, Magee, evangelist; Bob Harris, Oak Grove, Mendenhall, music; James Davis, organist; Alicia Saxon, pianist; Dewitt Mitchell, pastor.

County Line Church (Attala): July 29-Aug. 1; homecoming, Sunday, 11 a.m. with lunch in fellowship hall, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Johnny Parks, Bowlin Church, Kosciusko, evangelist; Welton Madden, Rocky Point Church, Carthage, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

Athens Church, Aberdeen (Monroe): Aug. 5-8; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy Nettles, Ft. Worth, Texas, evangelist; Edna Thompson, Athens Church, music; Julian C. Thompson pastor.

Honeycutt has triple bypass

Roy Honeycutt, 63, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., was scheduled to have triple bypass surgery Tuesday. Following a routine physical examination last week, arterial blockage was discovered. The surgery was to be at Norton Hospital in Louisville.

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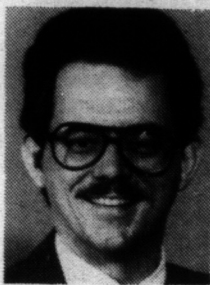
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

"No reason to go on living," begins Ecclesiastes

By Bob Rogers

Ecclesiastes 1:2-8, 12-17; 2:24-25

What would you do if you had a million dollars? Would you pay off your debts, buy a big house, fancy car, and fashionable clothes?



Rogers

Would you go on a vacation cruise to Acapulco? Would it solve all of your problems? Money certainly has not solved all of billionaire Donald Trump's problems. Wealth has not prevented Trump from having marital problems or defaulting on his loans. In this Sunday's lesson, we see the hopelessness of life, and we get a glimpse of the real source of hope.

Ecclesiastes is often identified with Solomon, but a brief reading of the book unveils a totally different approach to wisdom from that found in Proverbs. The author only calls himself

UNIFORM

"the Preacher"; Solomon is not named. Franz Delitzsch identified 95 Hebrew words in Ecclesiastes which were not known to exist in the language until after the time of Solomon. It is best to understand "the Preacher" as a wise Jewish king who wrote in the tradition of Solomon.

The book opens with the most pessimistic verse in the Bible: "Vanity of vanities, said the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (1:2). "Vanity" is translated in the New International Version as "meaningless." In the Good News Bible, it is "useless." In the New English Bible, it is "emptiness." Chuck Swindoll called it "living on the ragged edge." But in verse 3 he defines this life "under the sun." God is left out of the equation. When the Preacher says life is meaningless, he is referring to the life "under

the sun" that mankind experiences, not the life that includes God.

Verses 4-8 remind us of the endless march of time, with no apparent point to it all. What is the reason for arising from bed tomorrow? It will be another day stuck in the same old rut, the Preacher would say. Verses 12-17 mourn the uselessness of wisdom. The deepest philosopher can only conclude that it is "vexation of spirit"; that is, it is like trying to catch the wind.

Modern mankind can relate to the despair of the Preacher. The French philosopher, Jean Paul Sartre, who suffered through the Nazi occupation, depicted vanity in his play, No Exit. Sartre's play showed three characters who had no freedom over their own lives, but simply had to play their roles. Life gave them no exit, and they all ended in hell.

But wait! A turning point comes in 2:24-25. In a glimmer of hope, the Preacher says that life is a gift from God, and life is to be enjoyed. Life may seem empty "under the sun," but the

Preacher knows that there is a God who gives hope. Thus the last two verses of Ecclesiastes call on the reader to "fear God and keep his commandments . . . for God shall bring every work into judgment" (12:13-14).

When we read Ecclesiastes, we must remember that the Preacher did not have the revelation of Jesus Christ as the way to eternal life. He only knew about life "under the sun," yet he maintained a commitment to obey God. God had not yet revealed Christ to the Old Testament writers, but God has "in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:2). How much more should we fear God!

Make a chart of ways the Preacher sought meaning to life in Ecclesiastes 1-2 (labor, wisdom, pleasure, etc.). List the advantages of each. Discuss why each is empty in the end. Compare the eternal and abundant life in Jesus Christ, as mentioned in John 3:16 and 10:10. How is the Christian way better than each way the Preacher named?

Rogers is pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

"Live as God's special people," Peter tells Christians

By Jim Smith

1 Peter 2:1-12

Isn't it nice to be "special"? Yes! Everyone enjoys the status of being special and the privilege that accompany being special. Christians have become God's special people because of our adoption as sons through Jesus Christ but with the privileges of being special also come responsibilities.



Smith

Peter tells us that we must separate ourselves from all evil that was a part of our life before Christ. This evil includes but is not limited to malice, guile, hypocrisies, envying, and evil communication. To be the Christian God calls us to be, it is essential that we keep ourselves from evil, grow, and be sincere in desiring the truth

LIFE AND WORK

to be found in God's Word. If we strive to obtain this, then we can be equipped and freed to do God's will. We must grow in love, knowledge, and fear of God. Those who have accepted Christ as Savior and have diligently studied the Word are aware of God's great generosity and grace exhibited in their salvation. It is Christ who has made us what we have become.

Christ is the living stone. He is the corner stone, rejected by men, but chosen and prepared by God the Father from the foundation of the world. He is a precious stone beyond all price as men judge value. He is above diamonds and emeralds. But he was offered by God to be the rock upon which the church is built. Through him we are as living stones, destined to build a spiritual house, a holy temple of God. The church is a spiritual house built by God. We are the building stones, and Jesus is the foundation. Christ and Christians are bound together in the same bond and community of love.

Peter further likens Christians to temple servants, a holy priesthood. Believers now are to serve within the spiritual temple. Both believers and temple exist for the service and worship of God and must be engaged in that holy activity. One of the tasks will be to offer spiritual sacrifices of our lives that will be pleasing to God. Our lives will be offered to God as Paul said "living sacrifices" through daily devotion of that life to obedience, praise, and thanksgiving to God. Christ himself will mediate these sacrifices, for we are joined to him as one. It is he that makes them acceptable to God.

Those of us who believe upon Jesus shall not be confused. Christ is everything to us. Those who refuse to believe, however, will be broken

upon the stone rejected by the builders of Israel. He is a stepping stone to God's blessings for those who believe, but to them who refuse he becomes a stumbling block to the truth.

Christians have become a "spiritual Israel" in the plan of God. We have become his chosen generation, a nation of priests, a holy nation to be used for his purpose. We come from many peoples, but he has bound us together in him to form a holy nation for Jesus, the kingdom of God.

Peter closes the passage by admonishing us to be strong against the lusts of the body and the devil who attacks our soul. Being only sojourners in this land, we must remember our new home is not of this world. Even though the lost of this world speak evil against us, we must seek to be a positive witness in all we say and do that they may see God in our lives and be saved to glorify him.

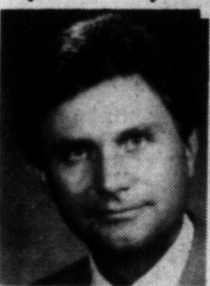
Smith is pastor, Mt. Gilead Church, Meridian.

The Philistines and the ark: spiritual struggles

By Lannie Wilbourn

1 Samuel 4:10-11; 5:6-7; 6:11-13; 7:3-6

Spiritual struggles often result from a conflict of expectations. In the heat of conflict we try to identify the enemy in order to fight him.



Wilbourn

The enemy is hard to identify in spiritual struggles. Satan is called the "deceiver." We must often face the truth Pogo told his friends in the swamp, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Two spiritual principles emerge from this passage: (1) Our expectations of God may not be the same as God's expectations of us. So,

it is far better to spend our time discovering his expectations of us than it is to spend our time telling God our expectations of him. He proved to his people in this passage that he would not be manipulated by their expectations. (2) When God's people are defeated, it does not mean that God himself is defeated. He chooses to use people as his instruments and vessels. It is our real privilege to serve him.

The Philistines were fearful enemies to face. They had migrated to the coastal plain southwest of Canaan after Joshua led the Israelites into the promised land. They may have served as mercenaries for Egypt at one time. Militarily, they were disciplined and well organized. Raiding parties had subdued villages along the border of Canaan, using iron weapons of war that were superior to the common bronze weapons. After a defeat the Israelites decided to bring God into the battle. The ark was brought to the battlefield with "such a great shout that the ground shook"

BIBLE BOOK

(4:5). The Philistines worshipped many gods. That their enemies would bring their god to the battle was no surprise to those pagans. "Be strong, be men, or be slaves!" was the Philistine battle cry. Eli's wicked sons brought the ark to the battle front. The Philistines fought with their battle cry. The Israelites expected God to win. They had brought him there. But they were slaughtered, and the army deserted as "every man fled to his tent" (4:10).

God's people were defeated, but God was not. The ark was taken prisoner and passed around three Philistine cities. In each place the people were stricken with tumors. In Ashdod the idol of Dagon fell off its pedestal twice, landing face down before the ark of God. The hands and head broke off in the second fall. The spiritual conflict was between Dagon and holy God. The description of the tumors roughly fits that of bubonic plague which is carried by rats. It is fatal to more than half of its victims. "God's hand was very heavy upon it" (5:11) is the description of the devastation on the Philistine cities. The God of Israel was not defeated even when his people had been routed in battle. Modern Christians need to learn this truth again. God is sovereign and free to do as he pleases. He will always win the spiritual struggles.

The five Philistine rulers gathered to plan the removal of the ark from their territory. The seven months it had been in their borders was a harrowing time of disease and death. They agreed on a guilt offering of a gold rat and a gold tumor for each of the kings. These would be put in a chest and loaded onto a cart with

the ark of God.

To pull the new cart, "... two cows that have calved and have never been yoked" (6:7) were hitched up and headed north. No one was to lead or drive the cows. Only God could cause the cows to go against everything in their nature to pull the cart and leave their calves. But they did! They followed the road all the way to the border with the five Philistine kings well behind the cart. God proved his power to the pagans and the believers.

The military victory of the Philistines was a hollow victory after seven months of spiritual

battle with holy God. Their god had literally crashed, their citizens were devastated by disease, and their kings had paid tribute with the guilt offering to the God of the people they had defeated. Who was and is the victor in the spiritual struggles of life? God is! Hallelujah, our King reigns! Jesus is his name! He came to a sin-plagued world and entered the spiritual struggle. His people were defeated, but he won the victory over Satan, who crashed on Easter morning before an empty tomb.

Wilbourn is pastor, Pinelake Church, Brandon.

Church planter assigns seat

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — A California church planter resorted to assigning seats when church members became possessive with their pews.

Blake Withers and his wife, Laurie, were two of 62 Southern Baptist home missionaries commissioned July 5 at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

While sharing his testimony, Withers told about meeting a church prospect in a grocery store. The man and his wife visited Withers' church in Cucamonga, Calif., the next Sunday. But the visitors left when a church member announced that they were in the member's seats.

Withers did not have the prospects' phone number, but he saw them the next week at the same grocery store. Being unfamiliar with church services, they explained that the member's comments made them think seats were assigned in the worship center. They left when they could not find a seating chart.

Withers got the couple's phone number and promised to call. A few days later Withers called to announce that four seats were available on the second row. He asked the man, "Could you use the other two?"

The prospects came on Sunday and brought two friends. All four people are now Christians and active church members, Withers said.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. Edward Gaddis
Forest Baptist Church
Mr. Earnest Gammill
Siloam Baptist Church
Mrs. Ida Elizabeth Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Farmer Sr.
Mrs. Pearl Gaugh
Ms. Ann E. Smith
Mr. Harold Gelston
Mrs. Edith Aldridge
Bill Gibson
Brotherhood of Bay Vista BC
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Kinabrew
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gilbert
The R. B. Lowrey Family
Mr. J. T. Gilbert
Mr. & Mrs. Benton C. Strain
Mrs. Kathryn Gipson
Mr. & Mrs. J. U. Hendrix
Mr. Forrest C. Givens
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Stanley
Arnold Godwin
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy N. Abel
Mr. W. D. Goodson
Mrs. Robbie Goodson
Laura Beth Goolsby
Ms. Jennie Sue Coltharp
Alan Gossett
Mrs. Minnie Gossett
Mr. Dennis Graham
Mr. & Mrs. G. T. Hancock
Emily Greener
Mrs. H. B. Whatley
Mrs. Mary M. Grossman
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Criss
Mr. A. M. Guymer
Mrs. Mack V. Furlow
A. M. Guynes
Mrs. Merle S. Furlow
Mr. Russell Hackley
Mr. & Mrs. O. R. Gladden
Mrs. John Hall
Mrs. Mildred Nichols & Family
Frances Case Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Roy V. Cloud
Mr. J. C. Hamilton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith
Mr. Kenneth Hardage
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hardage
Mrs. Evangeline Hardin
Mrs. Evelyn Terrell
Mrs. Elizabeth Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Smith
Yvonne Harlan
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Taryn Harris
Flora Baptist Church
Mrs. Emmaline Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mabry Sr.
Dr. Jack Causey
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark

Mrs. Ruby S. Hartley
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Douglas
Brother of Ms. Bessie Harvey
C. & O. Auto Parts
Mrs. Carrie Mae Hathorn
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil O. Holland
Mr. Grady C. Haynes
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Helen Marie Hays
Dr. & Mrs. Roy W. Daughdrill
Mrs. Arthur W. (Beth) Henderson
Dorcas Sunday School,
Hillcrest BC
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Word Jr.
Mr. C. Bernard Hendricks
Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Bevil
Mrs. Jane P. Ireland
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Buchanan
Jeffrey Allen Hendrix
Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King
Mrs. Lula Herrin
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Farmer Sr.
Mr. H. Leslie Herring
Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Bridges
Mrs. Cupid Herron
Mrs. Larry O'Conner
Mr. W. W. Hewitt
First Baptist Church
Mrs. Ruby S. Boggan
Mrs. Lorena Dean
W. W. (Woody) Hewitt
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Mrs. Gladys Hill
Mrs. Jean Allgood
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mabry Sr.
Josh Hillhouse
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Vickers
Mrs. Thelma H. Hinton
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Smiley
Mrs. Leola Hodges
Esther SS, Calvary BC
Meridian
Baby Andrew Malcolm Hodnett
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Evans
Mr. Bernard Holifield
Mrs. Joe W. Crawford
Mrs. Annie Ruth Love Holloway
The H. M. Allison Family
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Jemison Jr.
Pete & Kay Jones
Clark & Michele Love
Mary Love
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Pentecost
Mr. Elmer Holmes
Mrs. Elmer Holmes
Mr. Maurice Lee Honea
Mrs. M. L. Honea
Mr. Paul B. Hood, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Hays Stewart Sr.
Mary Ware Hood
Ms. Nell H. Bourland
Joe E. Horne
Ms. Mary Flynn
Polly Horne
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy J. Baggett
Mrs. Claudia Horton
Mrs. Tom Frazier
Mrs. Lucille Hosey
Dr. & Mrs. N. W. Carpenter Jr.
Mrs. J. D. Howell, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. T. E. Bounds, Jr.
Mrs. Addie Mae Harvison
Mrs. Jewell Howell
Mrs. Fern M. Lyter
Elizabeth Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Fred D. Dowling & Family
Jeanette Ward Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen
Mr. Loye Hudson
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Wells
Mrs. Lillian Huey
Ms. Claudine Davis
Miss Sue Reynolds

Mrs. Minnie Williams Huggins
Mrs. Louise M. Gwin
Howard H. Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm E. Curran
Mrs. Cecil Berch
Mr. E. H. Hurst
Mr. & Mrs. T. F. Badon
Mr. & Mrs. W. B. Badon
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Bell Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mabry Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Turney
Willing Workers Sunday School, Liberty BC
Mr. W. Harvey Hurt, Jr.
Mrs. June S. Stephenson
Mr. Harvey Hurt, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Mauldin
Vincent Hutchins
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Farmer
Jeanette Ward Hutson
Mrs. Teri M. Estes
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Ingold
Mr. & Mrs. Dorsey Ray
Terry Ingram
Mrs. Frances R. Lester
Mrs. Clara Ivey
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Dixon
Rev. Lester Janes
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hardage
Mr. C. D. Jefcoat
Yale Street Baptist Church
Walton E. Jemison
Mr. & Mrs. Powell E. Poe
Charlie L. Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kimzey
Mr. Neville Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Mrs. Ira Jenkins
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. John M. Mabry Sr.
H. Nelson Jensen, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Edward C. Walker
Leo Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Knight
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Statham
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Watson
Mrs. Ruth V. Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Crawford Jr.
Mrs. Thelma Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Knight
Mrs. H. L. Thompson
Linda Jones
Thrasher Baptist Church
Mr. Joseph B. Jones
Rogers Rental & Landfill Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Crain
Mr. & Mrs. O. D. Judge, Jr.
Mr. Richard Jones
Mr. & Mrs. E. Wayne Smith
Mr. Vernon Jones
First Baptist Church
Mrs. Ruby S. Boggan
Robert Jones
Mrs. Robert D. Hart & Family
Mrs. Bobbie Kaminer
Mr. & Mrs. Paul E. Speake
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver N. King
Mrs. Margaret Karr
Mr. & Mrs. Homer Woodruff
Jack Keating
Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Howard
Mr. Walter Ed Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry W. Carpenter
Wendell Kendall
Cascilla Baptist Church
Mr. Joe Kendrick
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Ray Jr.
Mr. G. T. Kerr
Ruth Sunday School, Second BC, Greenville
Mr. Wesley Kersey
Mr. & Mrs. George H. Smith

Corinne Kilbourn
Mrs. T. G. Payne
Mr. T. C. King
Ruth Sunday School, FBC
Tupelo
Thomas R. Kirk
Mrs. D. C. Owen
Father of Mrs. Talmadge
Kirkle
C. & O. Auto Parts
Mrs. Hassie Kirkpatrick
Mrs. Van Barrier
Mrs. Mary Sue Webb Taylor
Mrs. Nel Kirkwood
Mrs. Fern M. Lyter
James Harvey Knighton
Mrs. R. J. Knighton
Ricky Koon
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Harrell
Mrs. Cathryn B. Lamastus
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Baskin
Mrs. Kathryn Lamastus
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone
Mr. L. E. Lamb, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Bush
Mr. Roy E. Lance
Faith Sunday School, FBC
Grenada
Mr. Pat Langford
Mr. & Mrs. Cletus E. McCurley
Mr. Wilmer Langford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Caldwell
Mrs. Fred R. Langley
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Ross
Mr. Pat Lankford
Galilee Baptist Church
Adult II Ladies, Galilee BC
Mr. W. S. Lavender
Mr. & Mrs. E. B. Senter
Mrs. Mildred Lawery
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly
Mr. Nat Lea, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Rice
Bobby Allen Ledbetter
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Arendale
Kathy Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford McNemar

ALUMNI REUNION

The Bi-annual Alumni reunion of The Baptist Children's Village will be held Saturday, August 11, 1990 on The India Nunnery Campus of The Baptist Children's Village and will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Mrs. Cleo Lee
Mr. Doug Mathis
Mr. Kirk G. Taylor
Mrs. E. S. Lee
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Knight
Tommy Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Crain
T. A. LeMaster
Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Graham
Mrs. Ancil L. Lindley
Mrs. J. W. Jones
Mr. William E. (Bill) Linn, Jr.
Class of 1940, Hazlehurst
Mr. Harold Wilson
Joe C. & Chris W. Ashley
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil D. Wilkinson
Little Ones
Mrs. F. C. Couch
Mr. Joe Litton
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Sandroni
Howard Littrell
Mr. & Mrs. E. O. Vandevender
Mrs. Byron Livingston
Mrs. J. B. Williams
Mr. Paul Lofton
Deacons, Hillsboro BC
Gary Lynn Logan
Mrs. Quenton Jenkins
Mrs. W. M. Lollar
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Morgan

Mrs. Lutie Temple Lott
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Joiner
Ms. Patricia Walston
Mrs. Abbie Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Lowrey
The R. B. Lowrey Family
Mr. Ray Lungren
Ms. Elizabeth H. Hamberlin
The Tommy Hancock Family
"Sis" Burrell Madden
Mr. Thomas E. Hughes
Ms. Sue H. Strawbridge
Jo Catheryne Madden
Mr. Charles W. Holmes
John Madden
Mrs. Marie Coates
Mr. Ollie Mae MaHaffey
Mr. & Mrs. Haughey D. Wallace Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth W. Statham
Cynthia Majure
Mrs. Theresa Majure
Mrs. Hilda W. Malone
Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Hobgood
Mary Ruth Mangum
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Mangum
Mrs. Jackie Mangum
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Womack
Mrs. Mary Mangum
Mrs. Bertha G. Matthews

Elma T. Mapp
Ms. Mary Elaine Randazzo
Mr. George (Bud) Marks
Ben & Frances Tumey
Jeanette Marsh
Mrs. Roberta Barrantine
Rev. & Mrs. W. L. Marsh
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton
Mr. Doyle Marshall
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Simmons
Dr. William B. Thompson
Mr. Frank W. Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Lamar Douglas
Mr. J. Harvey Martindale
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Arendale
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Thompson Jr.
Charlotte Mason
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Fain Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Sterling A. Massey
Dorothy Massey Barar
Mr. S. Sidney Massey
Mr. Elton Massey
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Jones
Ace Matthews
Mrs. Louise McCraw
Frank Matulick
Miss Mary L. Leigh
Mrs. Bessie May
Mrs. Evelyn Terrell

(To be continued)



BACK TO SCHOOL 1990

As you can imagine, school's opening is a big time of year for all of us here at The Baptist Children's Village. There are school clothes to buy, inoculations to be given, electives to select, activity fees to pay, bus schedules to work out . . . the list seems to go on and on. It's the same routine that most parents go through. The only difference is that on our six campuses across the state, The Baptist Children's Village is helping over 200 students get ready for school's opening day. In addition, as some students leave and others arrive, this process will be repeated for nearly 400 more students who will receive residential care from The Children's Village during the coming school year. Take time now to write a check and help us meet these special needs. Mail your gift to:

The Baptist Children's Village
P. O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027



Warren men build in Huntsville

Warren Association sponsored a mission team of 10 men to Winchester Road Church, Huntsville, Ala., May 19-May 26. Winchester Road Church is a little over two years old, with about 50 members and 70 in Sunday School.

The team helped to construct a new auditorium and education building. The men hung more than 44,600 square feet of sheet rock.

Pictured, left to right, front row, are Gordon Lewis, John White, Gil Kim, Jake Shoops, John LeMay; second row, Ken Pickens of Tupelo; James Gilbreath of Immanuel Church, Vicksburg; Gerald Martin, pastor, Woodlawn Church; P. J. Griffing, and Steve Ragan.

Soviet refugees seek sponsors

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — "Soviet Pentecostals" are the newest group of refugees seeking Baptist sponsors in the United States.

Soviet Pentecostal is a catch-all term for Protestants who were not members of Russian Orthodox, Catholic or registered Protestant churches in the Soviet Union, said William Rutledge, assistant director for refugee church growth with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. The term is not related to highly emotional religious groups Americans equate with Pentecostalism.

Rutledge is seeking churches or associations to sponsor such families. The focus on Soviet Pentecostals is an extension of the Home Mission Board's refugee resettlement program which previously has centered on people from Asia and Spanish-speaking countries, he said.

The number of refugees from Soviet bloc countries is "literally in the thousands each month," Rutledge said. For example, in April, Church World Services handled 376 refugee cases from the Soviet bloc. But, Church World Services only processes about 10 percent of refugees seeking sponsors in the United States, Rutledge said.

The Home Mission Board is not a member of Church World Services, but works with the organization to place refugees.

Despite expanded religious freedom in the Soviet Union, Jim Powers, director of missions for Concord Baptist Association in Murfreesboro, Tenn., said Russians "live with the fear that the liberties will be taken away."

As long as the government denounces a belief in God, "there is no hope," said Liubov Mormul, a Russian refugee who moved to the United States last year with her parents and her three children.

To be classified as a refugee, a person must have experienced persecution or the threat of persecution. Mormul's family experienced death, imprisonment, and poisoning because of their Baptist convictions, she said.

Michael Thomas is pastor of New Vision Mission in Murfreesboro which, along with Concord Associa-

tion, sponsored Mormul's family and another Soviet family. "Our people did the hands-on work, but we could not have done it without the association's help," Thomas said.

Powers said joint sponsorship is almost essential with Soviet families because of family size. "It would be very hard for any single church to sponsor one family with 12 or 10 people," Powers explained.

Powers estimates the cost of sponsoring a large family at \$1,000 a month, which includes renting a house and paying utilities. Cost depends greatly on the size of the family and donation of items such as linens and furniture.

When a church or association agrees to sponsor a family, it agrees to provide food, clothing, and shelter for at least three months. However, Thomas said sponsors should be prepared to support the family for six months.

The obligation includes running a number of errands, from getting Social Security cards for the family to enrolling children in school and taking the family to the local health department for screenings. Thomas said the paperwork at first can be overwhelming, as everything has to be documented with refugee resettlement officials.

Sponsors also must teach refugees the difference between socialism and free enterprise. Families have to be taught how utility companies operate because they are used to the government providing their water and electrical services.

One of the sponsor's key responsibilities is to help the adults find work. Rutledge said many of the refugees are highly skilled but must take entry level jobs until they master the language. For example, he said a doctor from Romania is working as a nurse's aid until he can pass the medical exams in English.

Churches or associations interested in sponsoring refugees should contact Rutledge at the Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367. He will refer potential sponsors to a person in their state who coordinates refugee resettlement.

Sarah Zimmerman writes for FMB.

Baptist Medical Center holds mother/daughter seminar

By Lawrence L. Jones

Womanhood... a wondrous combination of strength, frailty, beauty, and mind... a precious gift from God. It is a gift every mother wants her daughter to appreciate and understand. This past spring, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, gave mothers a helping hand in teaching their daughters the joys and responsibilities of becoming a woman. "The Mother/Daughter Seminar" was not just another seminar to teach girls the "biology" of becoming a woman; it was much, much more.

The interest in and attendance of the seminar was overwhelming. "Once word was out about our 'Mother/Daughter Seminar, the calls began to come," said Mary Mann-Austin, RN, and MBMC education coordinator, who helped coordinate the program. Both sessions quickly filled and a second session was

scheduled for the overflow of 9-12 year olds and their mothers. "Father/Son Seminar" will be held this fall.

"One of the things that makes our program unique is our Christian perspective. We show the girls that the morals and values their mothers believe are not outdated," said Gerry Gray-Lewis, RN, director of Natural Family Planning and maternal/child patient educator at MBMC. Mrs. Gray-Lewis, who helped coordinate the program, said the purpose of the seminar is to provide an atmosphere of love and learning and to establish a foundation for respect and continued communication between parent and child.

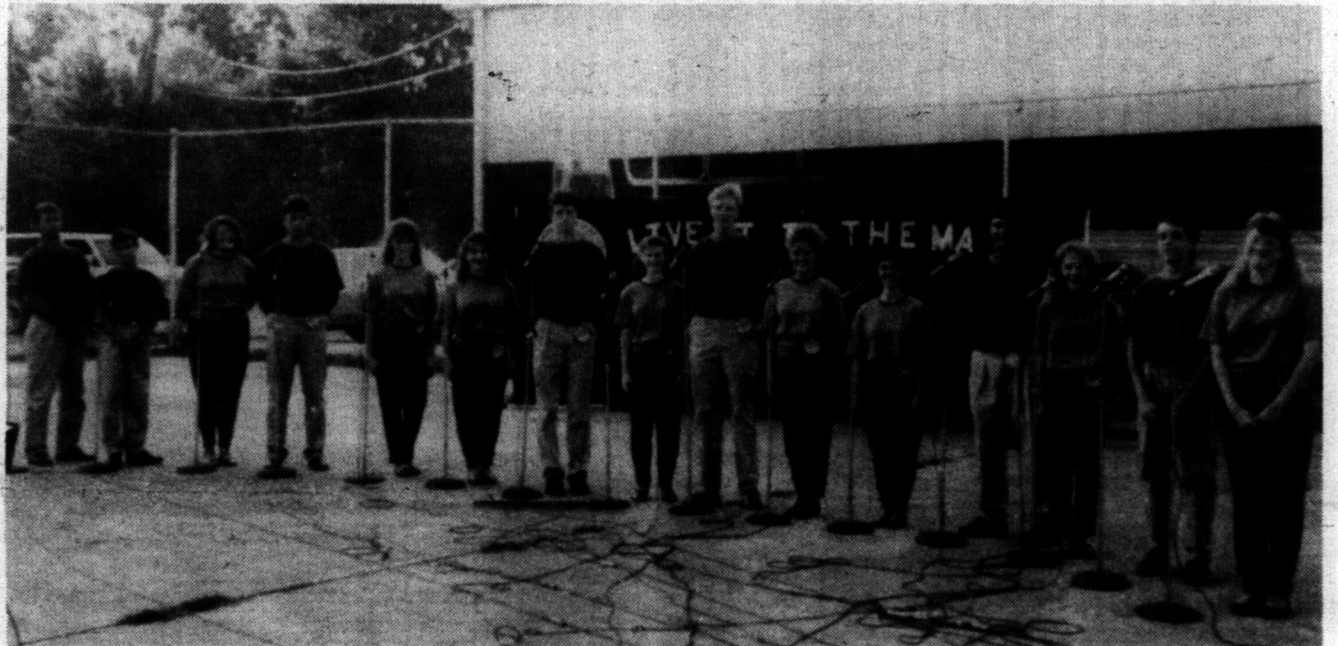
The programs were geared to two separate age groups, ages 13-17 and 9-12. The younger girls focused on physical and emotional changes that take place in growing up. The older girls discussed changes in their

bodies, dating, and the virtue of chastity.

The speakers were MBMC physicians, nurses, and natural family planning instructors. "What made the speakers so good was the fact that everything they said and did was heartfelt and sincere," said Mrs. Mann-Austin.

"I knew the program was a success when toward the end of the program, I could see mothers' arms creeping around their daughters' backs," commented Mrs. Gray-Lewis. "It was very touching to sense the warmth and closeness of the mothers and daughters as they left at the end of the afternoon. Hopefully, the bond they felt then will be carried through and enhanced through the tender moments and even the turmoil of growing up as the girls emerge into womanhood."

Laura Jones writes for MBMC.



Newhebron youths minister in Tennessee campgrounds

Sixteen young people and five adults from Newhebron Church, Newhebron, on June 16 traveled to Pigeon Forge, Tenn. to work under direction of Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries. Each morning the young people conducted Backyard Bible Day Camps at four campgrounds, and each evening entertained the campground residents with a musical rendition of pop tunes and contemporary Christian music, along with testimonies.

"A mission trip which includes witnessing to young and old both in day camps and family evening programs requires much preparation with a lot of hard work and dedication. It all pays off, however, when the children return day after day to the day

campers eager to hear Bible stories, to play games, to sing or make crafts and when, hopefully, the music and testimonies touch a lost person," said Jimmy Yarbrough, pastor.

Members of the Youth Committee who accompanied the young people were Charles Little, Robert May, Betty Wigington, and Becky Yarbrough. Lending a helping hand as chaperone was Jane Little.

Left to right: Michael Westmoreland, Jeremy Little, Ashley Morris, Lucas Yates, Kim Sharp, Suzanne Berry, Josh Yarbrough, Emily Little, Chad Wigington, Kelli Fox, Amy Buckley, Charlie Westmoreland, Denise Cole, Allen Flynt, Cassandra Lee, and not pictured, Becky Ferguson.



Gulf Coast holds mission fair

Pictured in the foreground are Charlie Mullinax, chairman, ethnic committee, left, and Pastor Tho Ngoc Dang, of the Vietnamese Church in Biloxi at the recent Associational Missions Fair conducted by Gulf Coast Association. Mrs. Barbara Evans, Associational WMU director coordinated the event which included booths and displays of the work with ethnic congregations, Seamen's Center, new English language missions, BSU, Gulf Coast Builders, Prison Ministry, and the program organizations. Bobby C. Perry is director of missions. (Photo by Jim Dalrymple.)

Baptist Record

005-DIM 291 7-26
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

July 26, 1990

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205